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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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GOOD NIGHT.

Good night, dear friend! I say good night to thee
Across the moonbeams, frembous and white,
Bridging all space between us, it may be,
Less low, sweet friend! it is the last good night.

For lying low upon my couch and still,
The fever flush vanished from my face,
I heard them whisper softly, "'Tis His will!
Angels will give her before many days!"

And so, from sight of leave that fall like rain,
And sound of sobbing smothered close and low,
I turned me to the window pane,
To say good night to thee before I go.

Good night, good night! I do not fear the end.
The conflict with the billows is all o'er and high;
And yet, if I could touch thy hand, my friend,
I think it would be easier to die.

If I could feel, through all the quiet waves
Of my deep hair, thy tender breath athrill,
I could go dimmed to the great mystic caves
With eyes sabine and pale lips smiling still:

Or it may be that if, through all the strife
And pain of parting, I should hear thy call,
I would come singing back to sweet, sweet life,
And know no mystery of death at all.

It may not be. Good night, dear friend, good night!
A shadow comes on the window pane,
And hear, through boughs with swollen buds awhite,
The gentle falling of the April rain.

Remember her whose young life held thy name,
With all things holy, in its outward flight,
And utters across from the dim realm of fame
To hear again her low Good night, good night!

—ALICE CARY. BESEDICT.

—Page Lippincott's Magazine for February.

THE NATIONAL GUARD OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Adjutant General's Report—List of Militia Companies in Allegheny County.

We have received the annual report of A. L. Russell, Adjutant General, with a register of the military force of the State. The Adjutant General says:

The military organization of the Commonwealth, styled by act of the last Legislature, "The National Guard of Pennsylvania," may now be regarded as established. Under the provisions of said act many organizations, beginning with the first year of Governor Geary's first official term, each succeeding year showing a greater ratio of increase, indicates not only the substantial character and growth of the system, but presents an enduring military force, composed of the great part, a rank and file of honorably discharged soldiers from active service, and commanded generally by officers of military experience, under whose discipline it can not fail, if properly encouraged and sustained, to prove efficient in case of emergency.

During the past year, *one hundred and fifty-eight* companies have been organized throughout the State, and the "National Guard of Pennsylvania," comprising, at the beginning of the year 1867, only eight companies, increased to sixty-one at the following year to seventy-eight, and during 1869, to one hundred and eighty-four, now numbers three hundred and sixty-two organizations, including also thirty-one company organizations having, for sundry causes, been disbanded.

These organizations comprise 972 commissioned officers and 13,954 enlisted men.

Of the above, eleven companies organized throughout the State, thirty-four belong to the Eighteenth Division, composed of troops in Allegheny county, the names of which, with the officers, are given below:

EIGHTEENTH DIVISION.

GENERAL AND STAFF.

Major General—Alfred H. Pearson, Pittsburgh.
Lieutenant Colonel and Assistant Adjutant General—John McLanahan, Pittsburgh.
Lieutenant Colonel and Division Inspector—Chas. A. Miller, Allegheny.
Lieutenant Colonel and Surgeon-in-Chief—J. H. Roberts, Birmingham.
Major and Division Paymaster—Geo H. Murphy, Pittsburgh.
Major and Division Commissary—Joseph Browne, Pittsburgh.
Major and Divison Quartermaster—W. P. Hunker, Pittsburgh.
Major and Judge Advocate—W. B. Cook, Pittsburgh.
Major and Aid-de-Camp—George W. Morris, Pittsburgh.
Major and Aid-de-Camp—George Jeremy, Pittsburgh.
Major and Aid-de-Camp—Wm. C. Moreland, Pittsburgh.

JEFFERSON CAVALRY.

Captain, James Large, Centreville.
First Lieutenant, Wm. Reed, Centreville.
Second Lieutenant, Wm. Finn, Jr.
Three officers and forty-four enlisted men.

KNAP'S BATTERY.

Captain, J. M. Knap, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, H. F. Kingsley, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, James P. Stewart, Pittsburgh.
Three officers and sixty-nine enlisted men.

THIRD REGIMENT INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Major, David Campbell, Pittsburgh.
Adjutant, Presley N. Guthrie, Pittsburgh.
Quartermaster, Thomas M. Bingham, Pittsburgh.

DUQUESNE GREYS.

Captain, David Campbell, Pittsburgh.
Captain, William B. Negley, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, William B. Negley, Pittsburgh.
First LieutenantJohn. Cowley, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, John Cowley, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, John Cowley, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, James Petrie, Pittsburgh.

SECOND COMPANY DUQUESNE GREYS.

Captain, James B. Moore, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, Wm. C. Read, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, J. F. Moore, Pittsburgh.

THIRD COMPANY DUQUESNE GREYS.

Captain, S. L. Fullwood, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, J. P. McMasters, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, Wm. H. Brown, Pittsburgh.

FOURTH COMPANY DUQUESNE GREYS.

Captain, A. G. Bussey, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, H. F. Bond, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, S. T. Paisley, Pittsburgh.

SIXTH COMPANY DUQUESNE GREYS.

Captain, Louis Haser, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, L. J. Brecht, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, George Neubert, Pittsburgh.

SEVENTH COMPANY DUQUESNE GREYS.

Captain, S. F. De Jones, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, Joseph R. Steiner, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, Joseph Schmidt, Pittsburgh.
Seventy-eight officers and three hundred and forty enlisted men.

SECOND PROVISIONAL BATTALION—FIRST BRIGADE.

Major, Samuel Kilgore, Pittsburgh.
Quartermaster, Michael O'Hara, Pittsburgh.

HEATH ZOUAVES.

Captain, Paul Cunningham.
Captain, Charles A. Miller, Allegheny.
Captain, Merritt Bachelor, Allegheny.
First Lieutenant, Fulton Bachelor, Allegheny.
First Lieutenant, Joseph R. Oxley, Allegheny.
First Lieutenant, Merritt Bachelor, Allegheny.
Second Lieutenant, John McGowan, Allegheny.

PITTSBURGH ZOUAVES.

Captain, Samuel Kilgore, Pittsburgh.
Captain, J. Van Buskirk, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, John McLanahan, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, J. Van Buskirk, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, Wm. J. Dawson, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, J. Van Buskirk, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, Wm. J. Dawson, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, Samuel Belfor, Pittsburgh.

ARDARY ZOUAVES.

Captain, F. C. Neeley, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, Washington Lower, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, William F. Aull, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, William Wilson, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, Lewis C. Castner, Pittsburgh.

ARMSTRONG ZOUAVES.

Captain, D. F. Perchment, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, J. M. Barr, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, John Rahe, Pittsburgh.

SECOND COMPANY HEATH ZOUAVES.

Captain, Hannum Gray, Allegheny.
First Lieutenant, Hannum Gray, Allegheny.
Second Lieutenant, James Orr, Allegheny.

PITTSBURGH LIGHT GUARD.

Captain, William Clark, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, George Laing, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, Theodore Pittsburgh.

COLLIER GUARDS.

Captain, W. C. Murphy, Sharpsburg.
First Lieutenant, Wm. Fraser, Sharpsburg.
Second Lieutenant, Charles W. Cook, Sharpsburg.
Second Lieutenant, Samuel England, Sharpsburg.

VETERAN GUARDS.

Captain, Isaac Cline, Birmingham.
First Lieutenant, John J. Hertzog, Birmingham.
Second Lieutenant, Peter Brindle, Jr., Birmingham.

PITTSBURGH LIGHT GUARD.

Captain, D. R. Morris, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, J. H. Fisher, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, John Douglass, Pittsburgh.

COMPANY B, PITTSBURGH LIGHT GUARD.

Captain, William H. Howe, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, John P. Nuffork, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant Edward Kelly, Pittsburgh.

CO. C, PITTSBURGH LIGHT GUARD.

Captain, Wm. M. Boyer, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, E. G. Comingo, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, John P. Andrews, Oakland.

CO. D, PITTSBURGH LIGHT GUARD.

Captain, W. F. Anderson, Oakland.
First Lieutenant, Joseph Lemmon, Oakland.
Second Lieutenant, Louis Walther, Oakland.
Seventeen officers and three hundred and forty enlisted men.

FREE RANGERS.

Captain, John W. Nesbit, Oakdale.
First Lieutenant, Wm. H. McEwing, Oakdale.
Second Lieutenant, Samuel Nesbit, Oakdale.
Three officers and eighteen enlisted men.

WASHINGTON INFANTRY.

Captain, Thos. A. Hoeley, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, David R. Morris, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, William Culp, Pittsburgh.
Two officers and thirty-one enlisted men.

WALTON BLUES.

Captain, Robert M. Elliott, Elizabeth.
First Lieutenant, Joel Fancourt, Elizabeth.
Second Lieutenant, J. A. Abrams, Elizabeth.
Three officers and forty-eight enlisted men.

J. S. O'NEIL ZOUAVES.

Captain, Alexander Kelly, Elizabeth.
First Lieutenant, Eugene A. Rice, Elizabeth.
Second Lieutenant, Jeremiah Donlin, Elizabeth.
Three officers and forty-three enlisted men.

BALDWIN INFANTRY.

Captain, Clark L. Johnson, Baldwin Township.
First Lieutenant, Henry G. Berg, Baldwin Township.
Second Lieutenant, J. W. Briggs, Baldwin Township.
Three officers and thirty-three men.

DOUGLASS ZOUAVES (COLORED).

Captain, George S. Massey, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, John W. Jacobs, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, A. William G. Boaie, Pittsburgh.
Three officers and sixty-eight enlisted men.

CHAMBERS LIGHT GUARD.

Captain, Presley S. Brown, Baldwin Township.
First Lieutenant, John W. Turney, South Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, John L. Hopper, South Pittsburgh.
Three officers and seventy-one enlisted men.

PEARSON ZOUAVES.

Captain, Geo. C. Patterson, New Texas.
First Lieutenant, Henry R. Hunter, New Texas.
Three officers and forty-one enlisted men.

FRIEND RIFLE GUARDS—ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

Captain, F. L. Raudow, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, John Bard, Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, Charles F. Franke, Pittsburgh.
Three officers and fifty-six enlisted men.

SMITH ZOUAVES.

Captain, Thomas C. Stewart, Pittsburgh.
First Lieutenant, John R. Pittsburgh.
Second Lieutenant, William Gissinger, Pittsburgh.
Three officers and fifty-eight enlisted men.

THE NEW YORK *Bulletin*—good authority—gives the *Independent* newspaper the following "first rate," and no doubt very just notice:

"The *Independent*, from its high moral assumptions, ought to be careful about the accuracy of its statements; and, from its religious professions, it should shun "the appearance of evil" by not virtually joining hands with reckless speculators bent upon the destruction of confidence in corporate enterprise for more selfish ends. Its avowed patriotic impulses should save it from indiscriminate attacks upon public enterprises, calculated to break down all respect for the honesty of American capitalists. But while the public have a right to expect these things from a paper which claims the distinction of being the leading religious newspaper of the country, the *Independent* regularly stoops to things to which no respectable secular journal would lend itself. It is too ready to prostitute its religious prestige to the support of speculations designed to make profit through inflicting mischief, and today, with little discretion, whatever may be advertised.

The *Bulletin* should not expect too much. The *Independent* is published to make money, and it is said it makes a great deal. Perhaps the *Bulletin* has suggested one of the ways it does it.

PARIS UNDER FIRE.

Prussians Shots Killing Women and Children, the Sick and Wounded—Strange Demeanor of the People—Speculators for a Famine.

A *Tribune* correspondent in Paris during the siege gives some interesting items about life in the beleaguered city. While walking through the city on one occasion he came near the Observatory, from which people are scampering away, some toward where he was standing arrested by a flap in the face, from a concussion of the air, and following close upon an explosion. A bomb has fallen a short distance off. The people do not appear frightened; only a little scared. No wonder. We see a small crowd advancing. Every one stretches out his neck. It is a piteous sight—a poor woman with a dead child. She has both thighs smashed, and the baby a big wound over the nose. One eye is burst out, and the left cheek is bad bare. No description could convey an idea of the dreadful expression on the countenances of that crowd. I saw tears, pale cheeks, and clenched teeth, and heard murmurs of horror and cries of vengeance and hatred. They may be worlds in the air, but they are earnest, and deadly in intent. A bombardment necessarily involves innocent victims, but the spectacle is one the less hideous.

Up to this time, January 5, the Quarter Latin—in which the bulk of the colleges and the great scholastic institutions are situated—the Val de Grace, the Luxemburg—the two latter are ambulances, full of wounded—appear to have offered special attractions to the Prussian bombs. We hear that the Salpetriere and Bicetre—the latter a refuge for old women and the alienated—have received their full share of Prussian New Year's gifts, and that a school for children, in the Rue de Vangirard, has not escaped their visitations. Curses "loud and deep" rift the air, invoked upon the head of an enemy who kills little children in their sleep; and, most assuredly, if the French ever gain the upper hand of the Prussians, the war will assume the phase of one of extermination. The projectiles, which have been picked up whole, are of dimensions, the majority weighing, on an average, 20 kilogrammes, or about 100 pounds English; but nine reached 214 pounds.

It would really appear as though the Prussians proceed upon a methodical principle in their attack. They bang away from dark till ten or eleven, then stop suddenly. Within this brief space of time people congregate in the streets to learn the cold intense: there is no wood, no coal, no fuel of any kind to be obtained, and oil is dear; so folks go to bed early as a means of economy. They have scarcely dropped into their first sleep than—bang! bang, clatter, crash, smash, smoke, and the whole of Paris is shell-struck. And this goes on all through the small hours, when comparative quiet is re-established. But this rain of shells is not continuous. Sometimes a lull of half an hour—an hour—takes place, when the storm of iron hail recommences with re-doubled intensity. Of course it is understood that the object of the besiegers is to harass and to terrify, and many persons consider that the bombardment of the city is carried on with the first-mentioned object. But so far as terror is concerned, the calculation of the enemy is erroneous. The imperturbable gayety of the people in the bombarded districts is something wonderful. Of course, in the neighborhood of the fortifications, who are lifted on the door by a bomb or who explodes under their bed are "harrassed," and so are the families which are driven from their homes, flame from south to north at a moment's notice. Nevertheless, the sangfroid of the Parisians does not know much. They clench their teeth and suffer, but "no surrender" is their last word. In this there is no exaggeration. A stranger who should drive through the Boulevards, say from a balloon, would not realize he is in the midst of a besieged city. He would, if previously acquainted with it, observe a difference in its aspect. He would see shops closed; the large thoroughfares thinly and drearily trodden; omnibuses and hackney-coaches circulating; and five times in the twenty-four miles in all almost every variety of military costume; but he would discern no symptoms of uneasiness, still less of terror. He would observe the theatres open, dancing in long files, the butchers' and the bakers' shops, and the omnibuses and cabs, early in the morning, often at midday and in the afternoon, he would be unable to record any signs of impatience, still less of fear, in the countenances of the unwounded neighborhoods. At night he would find the streets, the cafes, the theatres, the private houses, dimly lighted. He might be surprised that the table was breakfasts and dinners are not easily obtainable; and yet more astounded would he be at the extravagance in the establishments still open, and which still manage to furnish these meals. He would certainly resent paying double the price for his lunch, hunch, or dinner, and believe it exposed to the horrors of a siege. He would see people going to and fro in their ordinary business much the same as usual; he would be thronged; the irrepressible *absinthe*, vermouth, and bitters in bulk would be conducing the consumed and cards, chess and backgammon, affording the amusements often hours well-dressed ladies promenading; children playing in the meager sunshine—life, in fact, not interrupted in its course, just as if there were no Prussian guns belching death and destruction into our midst, and we were not imprisoned within a double circle of fire and iron. If he ventured as I do before, and visited the southern suburbs he would meet with evidences of the proximity of an enemy not quite so genial. He will, in damage done to our public buildings. He would see big holes pounded in the walls of dwelling houses, shops and inns; he would see huge barricades of stones, and earth, and bags of sand, and he would have to gain access to them by a zig-zag; trees rent in twain, and the boulevards and avenues full of their chief ornament; he would run against whole houses-holes emptying with their goods and chattels; he might, perhaps, come across a small group of three or four citizens conveying to the nearest ambulance a dead woman, child, or—provided it was civil—soldier, to whom a few yards of the spot where he arrived had been fatal. He would remark the wonderful indifference and the general attitude of the inhabitants of the bombarded neighborhood as compared with that of the communes of other quarters. He would have to record the absence of anything like terror, even of fear. Yet, what a lamentable disclosure since the commencement of the siege on the 19th of January 15th, when the first projectiles fell within the walls up to the night of the 31st of the 141h inclusive, there were one hundred and eighty-nine victims—of these fifty-one were killed and the remainder wounded. Of the killed seventy-eight were children, and twelve women. Of the one hundred and thirty-eight wounded seventy-one are children, and forty-six women. The sick in the bombarded embrace the entire southern suburb of the city, including also the Val de Grace, without spreading out like a fan from the Prussian batteries; and tending to the conclusion that the object has been to convey wide and general terror. It may not be the result of calculation—although the facts are in favor of this supposition—that the hospitals, schools, churches and public buildings over which floats the white flag, with the red cross, have been the chief objective points of the Prussian shells. Up to the present time, these and the neighborhood in which they are situated have suffered most. It is said that the enemy entertained an impression that the Pantheon was a storehouse for ammunition, and, therefore, on the 27th of December, Gen. Trochu sent de Moltke a messenger to disabuse him of this notion. Nevertheless, that building is still a target for the Prussians, as there can now remain no doubt that the enemy's artillerymen have orders to continue the fire on the batteries during the same points. I have not seen the fact officially announced, but the statement has found its way into all the papers that, in consequence of the representations of the Valde-Grace, which was full of French wounded, the Prussians promised their cessation, and the substitution of Prussian sick and wounded and prisoners, and has informed M. de Moltke of the change.

The Prussian guns and shells fall on hospitals and asylums have protested against the methodical barbarity of the Prussian bombardment, and, in directing the fire of his batteries upon edifices occupied by children, by demented men and women, by incurables, by lying-in women, by the aged and destitute of both sexes. Another has gone forth from the Curator of the Museum of Natural Gardens, Paris, in which the magnificent collection of orchideous plants (valued at 600,000 francs) has been destroyed, and which represents a large part of the world, and which it will require many years to replace, if the rehabitation can ever be accomplished. The loss to horticulture is immense. Again the correspondent writes that the material damage and the loss of life are trifling when the numbers bombarded and the density of its population are taken into account; and secondly, that the moral effect, as a means of reducing the population to a submission point, has not been realized. He may congratulate them with cause Paris to surrender is that which famine will bring home to every one. We are eating bread composed of starch and flour, with bakers' offal, oats, meal, rice and haricot fecule. It is very brown, heavy, and not well flavored; but if a sufficiency can be secured to supply the population for a month or six weeks, not a man, woman or child will grumble, provided the supply continues to be a satisfactory result. He says the reports as to the food supply are confused, and ascribes to the speculators in flour, in the hope of a famine, all the provisions, adding: "I am assured many hundred kilogrammes of flour and bread have been fished out of the river, the Canal de l'Ourcqe, and the Canal de la Marne. I cannot vouch for the fact, but the report so runs, and the rumor has been attributed to Prussian agents still in this city, who are said to purchase bread to be thrown into the rivers to prevent scarcity, and to destroy it by casting it "upon the waters."

THE COST OF THE WAR.

Over Seven Hundred Thousand French and One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Germans in Killed, Wounded and Missing.

According to the record of the Philadelphia *Telegraph* on the last January, 11,160 French officers and 323,376 men were reported as killed and wounded in the Germany. In the twenty-nine battles or sieges previous to the fall of Paris the Germans, it is estimated captured 296,810 French officers and soldiers. This estimate includes only the unwounded men that were captured, and is thought to be but slightly in excess of the true figures. What is called a low estimate of the killed and wounded gives the following result:

In the battles and retreat from Weissenburg to the Moselle..... 20,000
In the battles around Metz..... 25,000
In the seige of Metz..... 15,000
In the battles around Sedan..... 40,000
In the battles around Paris..... 10,000
In the battles around Ameins..... 6,000
In the battles around Belfort..... 10,000
In the battles around Dijon..... 10,000
In the different sieges..... 10,000

From the aggregate number of unwounded 296,000, we have a total as aggregate French loss, since the commencement of hostilities, and exclusive of the capitulation of Paris, of 707,186.

The German losses can only be approximate1, but have been severe, as the bombardment of the northern suburbs he would meet with evidences of the proximity of an enemy not quite so genial. He will, in damage done to our public buildings. He would see big holes pounded in the walls of dwelling houses, shops and inns; he would see huge barricades of stones, and earth, and bags of sand, and he would have to gain access to them by a zig-zag; trees rent in twain, and the boulevards and avenues full of their chief ornament; he would run against whole houses-holes emptying with their goods and chattels; he might, perhaps, come across a small group of three or four citizens conveying to the nearest ambulance a dead woman, child, or—provided it was civil—soldier, to whom a few yards of the spot where he arrived had been fatal. He would remark the wonderful indifference and the general attitude of the inhabitants of the bombarded neighborhood as compared with that of the communes of other quarters. He would have to record the absence of anything like terror, even of fear. Yet, what a lamentable disclosure since the commencement of the siege on the 19th of January 15th, when the first projectiles fell within the walls up to the night of the 31st inclusive, there were one hundred and eighty-nine victims—of these fifty-one were killed and the remainder wounded. Of the killed seventy-eight were children, and twelve women. Of the one hundred and thirty-eight wounded seventy-one are children, and forty-six women. The sick in the bombarded embrace the entire southern suburb of the city, including also the Val de Grace, without spreading out like a fan from the Prussian batteries; and tending to the conclusion that the object has been to convey wide and general terror. It may not be the result of calculation—although the facts are in favor of this supposition—that the hospitals, schools, churches and public buildings over which floats the white flag, with the red cross, have been the chief objective points of the Prussian shells. Up to the present time, these and the neighborhood in which they are situated have suffered most. It is said that the enemy entertained an impression that the Pantheon was a storehouse for ammunition, and, therefore, on the 27th of December, Gen. Trochu sent de Moltke a messenger to disabuse him of this notion. Nevertheless, that building is still a target for the Prussians, as there can now remain no doubt that the enemy's artillerymen have orders to continue the fire on the batteries during the same points. I have not seen the fact officially announced, but the statement has found its way into all the papers that, in consequence of the representations of the Valde-Grace, which was full of French wounded, the Prussians promised their cessation, and the substitution of Prussian sick and wounded and prisoners, and has informed M. de Moltke of the change.

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HARRISBURG.

The Allegheny Delegation Agree on the Salary Bill.

Proceedings of the Legislature.

Senate Committee on Apportionment—McFarland Resigns and Wickersham is Appointed in His Place—Appropriations for Charitable Institutions—Western Penitentiary $29,358, Western House of Refuge $25,670, Western Pennsylvania Hospital $34,000, Danville Hospital $250,000—The Steamship Bill Passed, &c., &c.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, February 3, 1871.

The Allegheny County delegation have agreed upon the Salary Bill, which will be reported in the House on Tuesday.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, Pa., February 2, 1871.

SENATE.

Favorable Report.

The General Judiciary Committee reported favorably Mr. Brooke's bill abolishing the Superintendent of Soldiers' Orphan Schools.

Rothermel's Painting Wanted in Allegheny.

Mr. Graham presented resolutions of the Park Commissioners of Allegheny city, offering to take Rothermel's Gettysburg battle painting for free exhibition, and provide for it an elegant building.

Changes of Venue.

Mr. Graham also presented a petition of nearly all the bankers and insurance men of Pittsburgh, for the repeal of section 2 of the act of April 28, 1870, relative to change of venue, which can be obtained at the mere option of either party, without showing any cause, and only applies to corporation cases.

Mr. Rutan called up the House bill expediting mortgages and other moneyed securities in Beaver county from taxation. Passed.

Superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphan Schools.

Mr. Brooke called up his bill abolishing the office of Superintendent of Soldiers' Orphans.

Mr. White moved postponement for the present. Lost, yeas 11, nays 18.

Mr. Rutan supported the bill. There is no use for this office. There is no superintendent now legally appointed.

Mr. White thought such a radical change demanded careful consideration.

Mr. Rutan said the Governor had difficulty in settling the matter. The present superintendent was unfit for the position. Money was expended needlessly, and several children had died from want of proper food, and several more from scrofula. Many victims of improper treatment are now living.

Sec. 6. Every officer named in this act or other person who shall receive any money for the purchase of any transcript, or bill required in this act, or in making any affidavit or deposition required by this act, shall be guilty of perjury, and shall be liable to the punishment prescribed by the laws of this State for subornation of perjury.

Sec. 7. All the officers named in this act, and their duties and powers, shall be subject to the provisions of the said specific salaries, which shall be a charge upon the county treasury, and shall be paid out of the money in said treasury, and shall be paid in by each office respectively or earned where fees are charged, and the said salaries of the several officers shall be paid monthly on the second Monday the month following that in which the services were rendered: Provided, That the County Controller shall not countersign a warrant for the payment of fees in the office of the Register of Wills, except in the case of the fourth class who were driven out by their comrades be restored to the academy, and that the first class implicated in that affair be expelled. There are but two or three members of the first class not engaged in the disgraceful proceeding. The remainder of the class was divided into three parties, each of which took charge of one of the three fourth class men driven out.

The leaders of these parties were the President's son, Adjutant General Townsend's son, and the late Admiral Farragut's son. All three are midshipmen of these boys was such with high officers of the government and the war office, that the Superintendent was unwilling to re-instate the cadets they had forced to leave the academy. The Committee ascertained that young Grant had on several occasions secured the pardon of cadets who had been subjected to penalties for violation of discipline, and had assumed to act as a power above the lawful Governor of the institution. The remaining member of the sub-committee is not in favor of the expulsion of the first class. The sub-committee do not recommend the removal of the present officers, but censure them for the present condition of discipline. The report was talked over at length, but no action was taken. It is considered certain that the committee will adopt and report to the House the recommendations of the majority, and letter of the House at an early day, when, according to present indications, there will be a sharp debate, in which the whole system of West Point management will be commented upon.

JAMAICA.

Grappling for the Porto Rico Cable—The Panama Railroad Again Submerged—Proposed Loan of $50,000,000 by the Peruvian Congress—Great Drouth in Buenos Ayres—The Revolution in Uruguay—Smart Shock of Earthquake, &c., &c.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, February 4.—The cable fleet with sir Charles Bright on board, leave here on Monday, and will remain at sea until the lost Porto Rico cable is recovered.

Panama dates of January 24th have come to hand by an arrival from Aspinwall. The Panama Railroad was again submerged, near Bujio, in three feet of water. No trains were passing over the road from shore to shore.

A proposition to raise a loan of $50,000,000 has been made in the Peruvian Congress.

A great drouth is reported in Buenos Ayres.

In Uruguay, affairs are still serious. The government forces had attacked Cocio and lost one hundred and fifty men.

A smart shock of earthquake has been felt in Guayaquil, No particulars.

Elie Aspinwall denies the statement that Captain Selfridge, of the Darien expedition, writes from that place that he has left with his party alone. He has discovered a route for the canal, the summit of which is but three hundred feet above the ocean. The route is practicable for the largest class of steamers.

Advices from Bolivia state that Lopez was still held by the revolutionists in Morals, and their leader was organizing forces at Sicasica. Emigration continued, and business was paralyzed. Belzu had been captured, after six hours fighting, by the revolutionists. He will be tried by a court martial.

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The city was pillaged for six days, and all manner of atrocities committed by the drunken soldiers.

Colonel Parenzo and the British Consul General Rosado's have been shot. Patosi is in prison. Fifty thousand Indians have joined from all the provinces to unite with the revolutionists. A battle is imminent.

POLITICAL.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

SALEM, OHIO, February 5, 1871.

The Republican Central Committee of Columbiana county met here to-day and appointed Josiah Teompson, of Liverpool township, to fill the vacancy in the Legislature occasioned by the death of Captain G. I. Young. The Democrats have not yet nominated. The county is strongly Republican.

For Additional Telegraph, see Second Page.

RAILROADS.

Statistics of 1870—Distribution and Cost of the Railroads of the Country—Progress of Construction Last Year.

The annual figures in regard to railway construction throughout the country have been made up, and show a total of 54,435 miles constructed in $46,345. The European war checked the negotiation of American railroad securities abroad, and hence only 5,574 miles were built out of 15,635 miles projected. The following table shows the distribution of mileage and cost of railroads in the several States and Territories:

	Length in miles		Cost of road	
	Road.	Track.	and equipment.	
Maine	972.00	870.31	$36,241,900	
New Hampshire	987.29	734.15	23,617,935	
Vermont	1,000.00	745.41	34,488,000	
Massachusetts	1,780.09	1,474.47	77,499,850	
Rhode Island	132.80	125.00	4,808,000	
Connecticut	747.00	728.75	34,976,834	
New York	5,178.42	4,596.49	$199,656,093	
New Jersey	1,541.90	1,091.80	534,940,545	
Pennsylvania	3,615.00	3,005.06	145,535,000	
Delaware and E.	588.64	390.14	206,739,037	
Maryland	845.74	485.49	10,053,022	
West Maryland (West)	840.74	485.49	34,723,367	
West Virginia	811.75	374.75	30,493,759	
Virginia	1,078.73	11,800.62	$699,502.76	
North Carolina	1,075.17	1,075.17	$3,883,476	
South Carolina	1,438.17	1,138.67	23,164,298	
Georgia	1,591.25	1,239.73	29,865,583	
Florida	607.20	440.26	14,730,000	
	8,186.55	6,155.70	11,781,919	
Alabama	2,120.00	1,896.00	$174,519,582	
Mississippi	1,111.00	977.00	$16,928,605	
Louisiana	844.50	479.50	13,393,796	
Texas	4,671.50	695.50	19,583,796	
Arkansas	266.00	266.00	23,050,000	
Tennessee	2,016.08	1,490.08	8,736,000	
Kentucky	1,375.41	907.37	30,640,699	
	12,699.29	6,201.95	$217,348,665	
Ohio	4,809.93	2,638.99	$192,536,000	
Michigan	2,092.30	1,733.30	78,817,748	
Indiana	4,865.20	2,217.61	138,957,185	
Illinois	5,013.10	3,693.10	257,553,000	
Wisconsin	3,142.29	1,475.20	59,833,881	
	24,614.08	15,547.35	$701,700,029	
Missouri	4,573.42	2,140.13	$106,503,484	
Kansas	1,501.00	56.20	56,720,000	
Colorado	1,000.00	50.00	17,400,000	
Iowa	4,472.25	2,598.25	111,978,000	
Nebraska	1,200.00	80.00	29,300,000	
Minnesota Ter	492.00	492.00	48,700,000	
Minnesota	2,654.00	972.00	24,720,000	
Dakota Ter	100.00		300,000	
Montana & Idaho Territories	600.00			
	19,669.67	8,611.38	$419,785,484	
California	3,595.00	926.00	$20,624,000	
Nevada	1,492.00	593.00	60,000,000	
Utah Territory	854.00	120.00	40,000,000	
Oregon	2,648.50	159.50	6,100,000	
Washington Ter	420.00			
	10,210.50	2,113.10	$185,724,582	

RECAPITULATION.

N. E. States	6,470.10	5,604.60	$199,484,000
Middle States	12,699.29	11,200.62	640,789,976
S. E. States	8,186.55	6,155.70	174,519,582
Interior south of S. W. States	12,699.29	6,201.25	217,348,686
Interior east of Pacific States	24,614.08	15,547.35	701,700,029
Interior west of Pacific States	19,662.67	8,611.38	419,785,484
	8,259.10	2,113.10	185,734,581
Grand total	93,970.82	54,435.49	$2,873,926,109

The *American Railroad Journal* has prepared the following table of the number of miles and cost of road constructed in 1870. It will be seen that while

	Miles of Road.		Cost of Road
	Projected.	Completed.	& Equipment.
Northeast	591 00	231 78	$ 9,833,292
Middlewest	2,221 30	1,509 55	34,901,250
Southwest	1,406 64	318 22	10,519,325
Gulf & S. West	2

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, February 11, 1871.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1871.

During the last six months a good deal has been said and written in Germany touching the future relations of the Germanic and the Latin races. The drift of these speculations is that the Latins have deteriorated beyond hope of recovery; that they have fulfilled their purpose in history, and are now destined to perform a subordinate part in the world, perhaps to become extinct, while the Germans and their kindred, still in pristine vigor, are called to possess the earth and carry on the work of civilization and culture. Even COUNT BISMARCK is reported to have said that the view seemed to him fully warranted by recent facts. Whether entertained by him or not, there is little doubt that, a few weeks ago, in a mellow and philosophical frame of mind after dinner, the Chancellor favored a Spaniard, M. ANGEL DE MIRANDA, consequently a member of the doomed race, with a luminous exposition of the theory so flattering to German self-esteem, and so little likely to promote the happy digestion of his Latin hearer. Whether set forth in the form of didactic instruction or of mere prediction, the notion excites some indignation among the people whose degeneracy and approaching extinction are assumed. It naturally appears to them a mere dream of Teutonic arrogance, or a mere figment of the Teutonic imagination inflamed by recent successes, a figment certain to be exploded in a few years by brilliant French triumphs in war and peace. In the meantime, a Frenchman, M. MOLINO, in an article entitled *Le Peuple-Roi de l'Avenir*, enters into an elaborate refutation of the notion. In his opinion not the German, but the Latin races, the French, the Italians, the Spaniards &c., are to be the *People-Roi*, or ruling people of the future. Some of the arguments by which this view is supported, are set curious if not forcible, as to be worth repeating. Having admitted the temporary triumph of the Germans in over-running France like locusts, because they have been unskillfully resisted, M. MOLINO denies that "Germany is at all qualified to take the place of France at the head of civilization and progress. At present Prussia is the scourge of GOD armed with strength and rod. But force is necessarily exhausted by its own exercise, while the rod is just as inevitably worn out by use! "And the scourge ceases!" and the French will recover from their prostration bruised but not mutilated. M. MOLINO then compares the land, the genius, and the language of the Germans with the land, the genius and the language of the Latins, and from the comparison confidently infers the coming predominance of the latter. The *force* of a people, that which makes it king of the future, is its *genius*. The point of support of force or genius is the soil! The soul of force, the instrument of its conquests, is language. Now Prussia, were it all Germany, has neither the genius nor the soil nor the language which constitute force. While the soil of Spain, France and Italy yields abundant subsistance for all their inhabitants, while their delightful climate is such as to make it martyrdom for them to leave it, the soil of Germany is such as to compel emigration, the climate such as to make the necessity of emigration welcome. Three hundred thousand forsake it in a year! They used to crowd into France, where they were happier than at home, while the few French and Italians forced into Germany died of *ennui*. The grain of Germany is rye or barley; its wine, bitter beer; its roast, the stock-fish; its vegetable, sour-crout. The wine of the Rhine is the wine of the rich; it breaks the legs, but says nothing to the heart or the head. The wines of Spain, France, Italy, are the wines of all, the wines of the poor as well as of the rich; they rejoice the soul and warm the heart.

If M. MOLINO's account of the genius or character of the peoples in controversy is correct, there can be no doubt which of them will be compelled to take the lowest place. To the Spaniard he ascribes sobriety in body, soul and spirit; to the Frenchman wit, reason, logic; to the Italian imagination and gaiety; to the German revery or dreaminess. According to the same authority, the medium of Spanish genius is to hear-say; that of French genius is to see; that of Italian sings; the medium of German genius is the clouds, or fir forests, the German dreams. The element in which he lives is necessarily false unsubstantial, transitory. The essential peculiarity of German genius is to evaporate, vanish away in its own thoughts and to arrive at all the enormities of error.

The paper of which we have tried to give an account is pronounced by a high French authority "a remarkable article." If to any of our readers the reasoning seems fantastic, or inconclusive, it is perhaps not the less instructive or less worthy of a moments attention at the present time for that reason.

THE UNITED STATES ABROAD.

Comparatively little interest is felt by Americans generally in what may be called the foreign relations of civil service reform. It is only within the last few years that many of them go abroad, and even since the increase of travel began, the number who visit the old world is small relatively to the mass who spend their lives at home. With so many matters of domestic concern pressing upon them and demanding attention, it is not strange that most of them look at our connections and relations in foreign countries with a theoretical or speculative curiosity rather than with the intense and practical interest which would become people who have a direct concern and a personal responsibility in the manner in which those relations and connections are maintained. Every intelligent citizen of course knows that he is represented by somebody in each of the capital cities and chief ports of Europe and Asia, but he seldom gives himself any trouble or feels any concern touching the character of his deputy, or the manner in which the duties of the position are discharged. If we ever spend a thought upon the subject, we at once take it for granted that it is all right, having been duly attended to by our rulers and representatives in Washington. It is certainly their duty to make it all right. Unfortunately the indifference of the people either reacts upon those exalted functionaries, or else springing from the people themselves, they are apt, at any rate liable in some degree, to sympathize in their unconcern. It would seem that only on some such theory can we account for the notoriously defective, not to say disreputable condition of the American representative service beyond the seas. We do not forget that the service has, and no doubt always has had, not only unexceptionable but creditable members; here the ancient saying applies, "one swallow maketh not summer." It has been authoritatively charged upon successive administrations, the fact can hardly be successfully disputed that, with the exception of the few highest appointments, the positions of the service in Europe have been regarded as convenient places wherewith to reward personal friends or partisan retainers who could not be safely or judiciously rewarded at home. With respect to the needful intellectual qualifications it was formerly usual to ask no embarrassing questions. We need hardly say, the testimony is overwhelming as to the injury in credit, dignity and dollars which the country has sustained from this source. Regarding responsibility for the fact, we cannot make a more moderate or a more obvious comment than to say that such policy discloses an utter failure to understand our just relations to other countries and the mode in which they should be maintained.

But Europe is near us, and, besides, gives important aid in keeping up its communications with us on a right and profitable footing. If we wish to see our negligence in foreign matters glaringly exhibited, the defects of our apparatus for international intercourse most disgracefully illustrated, we must go farther East. Notwithstanding our long intercourse and important commerce with China, when we sent a Commissioner thither on momentous business, we had to depend upon the American Board of Foreign Missions for interpreters through whom to communicate with the Chinese officials. But for servants of that venerable society such as Drs. PARKER and WELLS WILLIAMS, the Government of the United States would have been compelled in its transactions with the Mandarins, to borrow the services of men trained for the performance of diplomatic duties at the expense of the English or French or Dutch or some other European power. It may, however, have been very important that these powers should not become acquainted with the purport of the transactions referred to. Ten years ago American influence was predominant in Japan. To maintain and extend their influence indefinitely depended wholly on themselves, as they occupied a position of advantage which would have enabled them to defy the eager rivalry of other foreign powers. Fortunately Mr. HARRIS, a gentleman preeminently qualified for the position, became American Minister resident, and as the result of his tact and exertions, his Government was constantly rendered more and more respectable and powerful with the Japanese. What he accomplished, however, he effected without becoming countenance from Washington and in the face of difficulties which would have discouraged any other man. From an absurd application of economy, in a penny wise spirit, no arrangements were made for displaying and maintaining the dignity of their Government by suitable buildings; no provision was made for the education and training of young Americans in the language and customs of the country so as to be able to act as interpreters and in other ways carry on intercourse with the people in a manner accordant with Japanese notions of propriety. In spite of these drawbacks, while Mr. HARRIS remained, no foreign Minister commanded more respect, no foreign government was more potent there than the American. As if jealous of its own influence, it recalled the Minister who made it respected, and put in his place a man who had everything to learn. *He* in turn after a residence of four years was succeeded by a man who had everything to learn. We know not how well fitted either of them was for the place, but we do know that under the American system of rotation neither of them had any sufficient motive to sincerely try to master the knowledge and details necessary to a skillful performance of his duty. As each of them arrived at his post, he found no fixed establishment in harmony with the greatness and majesty of the power which he represented; no countrymen already trained in Japanese diplomacy, familiar with the language and able to direct him in his new career. It seems incredible, but it is actually true, that the Americans sent a minister resident in Japan to-day, of course ignorant of the language, has no secretary of legation and no interpreter; so that he has to employ one or more of the Dutchmen, or Prussians, or French, or Russians, or Portuguese, or English, or Danes, or other foreigners educated at the expense of their own government to aid him in maintaining his influence with the empire which Americans opened up to the commerce of the world. The minister must employ one of these rivals to interpret for him, or else trust to a Japanese. It is hard to tell in which case the greater risk of deception is incurred. In view of these facts no one needs wonder to hear that American influence in Japan has been steadily declining for the last eight years, while the influence of the great and small European powers has been steadily on the increase. The call from abroad for the reform of the civil service is as loud and urgent as the call at home.

THE FAITHLESS.

It was MR. ROBB who offered the amendment providing that the Fee Bill should not affect any officers elected previous to January first, 1871. In other words, that Prothonotary ROSS and Coroner WEST, who were elected last fall, shall hold their full terms of three years, and collect and use all the fees pertaining to their respective offices. When MR. ROBB was before the people, and was asked by the county committee to pledge himself to carry out the resolutions of the convention requiring the reduction of the salaries of county officers "to a just and reasonable compensation," he pledged himself in these words:

"I heartily indorse these resolutions, and I hereby pledge myself, to you and to the people of this county at large, to abide by and sustain them, to the best of my ability, in every particular."

MR. ROSS and MR. WEST made precisely similar pledges, and accepted their offices with the full knowledge and understanding that their fees might be reduced.

Now MR. ROBB, having pledged himself to sustain the objects of the resolutions *in every particular*, ought to explain wherein those [illegible] have been violated, and MR. ROSS may not have acted any more inconsistently with his pledges than other members did with theirs, but our disputches give him the credit of moving the exemption of *all* officers now incumbent, and the amendment was passed. In other words, the bill, as passed, reduces no salaries whatever, and applies to nobody! It will not affect the Sheriff, the Clerk of the Courts, the Recorder, and some other officers, for nearly two years; and it will not affect the Prothonotary and Coroner for three years! What a mockery of the people this seems to be! How like a sham the whole thing appears! A bill to reduce salaries one year hence, two years hence, three years hence—but not now! A bill to redeem pledges for immediate reform, made to the people, from which the people are to derive not one cent of present advantage! Such is "reform within the party."

If our Representatives cannot approach any nearer to the "letter and spirit" of their pledges than is indicated in the bill as it passed the House, then, indeed, the people will have reaped but a barren victory. If men, with their obligations fresh upon their consciences, and the eyes of the people upon them, can redeem their pledges in this way, and escape condemnation, how easy it will be—nay, how popular—for them, or others, to repeal the bill altogether a year hence?

On the question who will be President, take the average of those that are intelligent, one man's opinion is almost as good as another; and when it comes to looking two or three years into the future, there is believed to be no patent right for discerning what is going to happen. Nevertheless, a good many persons are in the habit of attaching special importance to the prognostications and feelings of certain other persons; and hence MR. GREELEY's idea about the Republican Presidential candidate next time is regarded by them with a certain kind of curiosity. This curiosity MR. GREELEY, in his paper of Tuesday, proceeds to gratify, by declaring himself pretty fully on the point whether he is for or against General GRANT's nomination, he having been accused of not desiring it. To this MR. GREELEY neither assents nor demurs, declares that he is "neither for nor against the nomination of General GRANT, and that neither, as he shall judge most conducive to a Republican triumph." He goes on to say:

"He deems it too soon by a year to discuss the claims or chances of Gen. Grant or on any one else. So far as he can judge, the Republicans are generally satisfied with General Grant's Administration and inclined to renew his lease of power. If there is not much enthusiasm in his behalf, there is a very general conviction that he is a safe and prudent Executive. Not hearing of any formidable or serious effort to prevent his renomination, it seems to us unwise in those who favor it to agitate the matter. The meeting of Congress next December is quite soon enough for that."

Then some reasons, mainly the financial mangement, are given why Gen. GRANT deserves well and will be so regarded by the country, adding thereto: "We like Gen. GRANT, but we care far more for Republican ascendancy than for any man's personal fortunes." Reasons conclusive enough are given why it would be a calamity were the Democrats to return to power, after enumerating which, MR. GREELEY concludes his confessions as follows:

"It behooves Republicans, in our view, to stand wholly aloof from personal committals and entanglements until the time for decision and action with regard to next Presidential canvass shall have arrived; and that is nearly or quite a year hence. If—as now seems highly probable—General Grant shall then appear to be our strongest man, we must all go in for him and make his nomination unanimous. If any other Republican shall at that time be stronger, we must rally around that other, nominate and elect him. Meantime, let us attend to more pre-ing requirements, and let President making bide in time."

What will occur to the majority of readers is, that MR. GREELEY's mind, like their own, is not made up, and that future events will go far towards deciding it.

Two Germans living next door to each other in Cincinnati were on unfriendly terms, and one of them told the reporter of the *Volksblatt* that the other had committed suicide. The story was published and a suit for libel was brought. The jury in the Superior Court found for the plaintiff with damages; Judge COX holding that when persons give local reporters items for publication which prove to be untrue and libelous, the informer is liable.

HOW NOT TO DO IT AGAIN.

The Allegheny delegation in Harrisburg are demonstrating to a nicety how not to do it, in regard to the honest fulfillment of their pledges touching Reform in the county offices.

In the first place they tried hard to repudiate their pledges in toto; but popular indignation was too strong for them—they had not their courage to do in a straightout manner what they felt in their hearts, and what the leaders urged them to do. They next addressed themselves to finding an indirect way to accomplish their purpose; and, judging from the House proceedings Tuesday, they have been tolerably successful. After agreeing on a Reform Bill, *they make it applicable one, two and three years hence! Meanwhile the law, on the plea of some imperfections, which might just as well be guarded against now, will be repealed.*

On this we can rely with a certainty. It is a bungling piece of legerdemain, but entirely characteristic.

We have a certain fixed faith in the intelligence and honesty of the masses of the people, and are entirely confident that they will see right through this piece of jugglery.

Look at the prominent facts. To save themselves from the humiliating defeat which stared them in the face, the present delegation and all their associate candidates, as well as the "Regular" leaders of the party, in the most solemn manner bound themselves to procure the passage of a law reducing the fees and salaries of the county offices. In every conceivable manner did they commit themselves to this policy, and succeeded in making the people trust them once more. In word and spirit the agreement was that the Reform should be immediate as well as thorough—applicable to those then running for office. When it becomes necessary to act, when they must either fulfil or repudiate these solemn pledges, they tried to repudiate, open and shamelessly, but difficulty was experienced on the part of some in screwing their courage up to the sticking point. Those in office were too fond of the pickings and stealings to give them up—and give them up they will not; and so the Reform is made applicable to those who may come after them, if the law is not in the meantime repealed, and repeal has already become one of the cardinal virtues of these pledge-takers and pledge-breakers.

And so there is to be no Reform; the same old expenses, abuses, pickings and stealings are to go on just as before, the pledge-takers and pledge-breakers, the "Regular" leaders, Committee men and whippers-in comforting themselves that the people of Allegheny will never mind it, but submit to be lied to, cheated, plundered and ridden in future just as they have been in the past.

It remains to be seen whether the people of Allegheny will thus submit to wrong and falsehood, or will rise in indignation against their betrayers the first opportunity that offers.

A new movement in behalf of Civil Service Reform is on foot in the House of Representatives, in the shape of a joint resolution offered by Mr. STRONG. Its scope is described as follows:

"It authorizes the President to prescribe such rules and regulations for the admission of persons into the civil service of the United States as will best promote the efficiency thereof, and ascertain the fitness of each candidate, in respect to age, health, character, knowledge and ability, for the branch of service into which he seeks to enter; and for the purpose the President is authorized to employ suitable persons to conduct such inquiries, and may employ and establish regulations for the conduct of persons who may receive appointments in the civil service. The Secretary of State is authorized to prescribe fees to be paid by all persons applying for appointments, except such classes of honorably discharged soldiers as he may except, which fees may be applied to the payment of expenses of making such inquiries."

This plan is said to have met with much favor with the supporters of JENCKES's bill, and the opinion is expressed that it can be passed through both Houses and carried into effect at once. It is good as far as it goes; but it fails to touch a very important point where reform is much needed, that is, the virtual farming out appointments among the members of Congress, whereby the Government itself is perpetually made a tool of, without much regard to anything but the interests of members, some of whom are not over scrupulous how they use the extraordinary power thus placed in their hands. This is a prolific source of corruption among office seekers and the possessor of the power, and, of income, usually. No matter how corruptly that "indorsement" has been obtained, the President and heads of Departments ratify the bargain, and the product of corruption floods the service. The reform will hardly have a beginning if it starts short of laying the ax to the root of this stupendous evil—an evil that corrupts politics, local and general, holds out a perpetual inducement to utterly unworthy persons to become aspirants, and combines in their favor the worst elements in party organizations which are bad enough at best.

A New York letter says: "If Secretary BOUTWELL had been in Wall street this afternoon he would not have felt flattered by the commentaries there on his persistent opposition to the repeal of the income tax." Mr. BOUTWELL's letter proves that he has the will to stick, when sticking is not much of a virtue. He says the country cannot safely cut off what is realized under the income tax law. Very well; put it on somewhere else, and pay respectful deference to the universal protest against the odious character of this law, which is everywhere felt to be unjust in its operation, a device which makes men dishonest, and an indescribable annoyance. Mr. BOUTWELL never heeds the fact that it is not so much the tax itself as the manner of imposing it; as if it were of no consequence how the goose is plucked, if he's only well plucked. If Mr. BOUTWELL or anybody else in the Government has made up his mind to disregard this very proper protest, let him be assured that there exists a very general disposition to find a way to cause to be given to it respectful attention. This idea enters a good way into the politics of the country just now, and is not likely to grow less in the future.

It is impossible to come to any other conclusion than that England accepts the extreme probability of a European struggle in which she may become involved. Not only is this shown in an anxiety for a speedy settlement of the Alabama Claims, and all other outstanding questions between her and this country, but in the self-examination going on at home as to her situation as a military nation and capacity to maintain her ancient fame in this respect among the nations of the earth. On this point there is a growing sensitiveness which the evident disposition by Prussia to bully her is not at all calculated to allay. Hence we see proposed reforms in her military system, and changes for which there would be no motive if there did not exist a consciousness that the time may be at hand for employing all of England's resources. Hence we find the London *Observer* giving out that the Government scheme for increasing the efficiency of the army is far more comprehensive than is generally understood, that the bounty system to promote enlistments will be extensively resorted to, and the supreme military direction entrusted to a Board similar to that of the Admiralty. All this arises, no doubt, from the disposition manifested by Germany to encroach upon and pick a quarrel with England. The demand for the surrender of a portion of the French navy, which Prussia has included in the terms of peace, has a special significance which England is perfectly cognizant of—a conscioussness of a troubled future to her and Europe at large, which she is manifesting in many ways.

The New York *Leader* sets out to prove that exercise is not conducive to good health, and cites that Louis Napoleon at Ham and Wilhemshohe is fatter and healthier than ever he was when free, and also refers to that youth who was hung up in Vermont last month, and though he had been closely confined to his cell a whole year, with no exercise whatever, yet he never was in better bodily health than he was when he was brought out to be hung. Herein it finds an awful warning, for it says: "After twelve months of healthful quiet, the very first violent exercise taken by this unhappy young man 'broke his neck!' The moral must be for everybody to go to prison but to avoid getting hung."

JOHN RUSKIN, the eminent Englishman, is becoming dangerous. In a letter to the laborers of England, he says: There are many things I should like to destroy. I should like to destroy most of the railroads in England, and all the railroads in Wales. I should like to destroy and rebuild the Houses of Parliament, the National Gallery, and the east end of London; and to destroy without rebuilding, the new town of Edinburgh, the north suburb of Geneva, and the city of New York.

New York and Chicago are apprehensive that they may soon suffer from too much water, an article not very popular in either city. The thaw is the cause of their apprehension, as they dread that the sudden going off in a rain storm of the immense quantity of snow, together with the breaking up of the ice, may cause the rivers to overflow, inflicting great damnage.

SPEECH OF HON. JOHN SCOTT,

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

In the United States Senate, in Favor of the Repeal of the Income Tax.

The Senate, as in Committee of the Whole, proceeded to consider the bill (S. No. 1,083) to repeal so much of the act approved July 14, 1870, entitled "An act to reduce internal taxes, and for other purposes," as continues the income tax after the 31st day of December, A. D., 1870.

Mr. SCOTT—Mr. President, in order that we may have a clear understanding of the question which is presented by this bill, I wish to state briefly the present position of the income tax. The tax for the year ending December 31, 1869, was levied on the 1st of March, 1870, and paid during the month of April, 1870, and was to be levied and paid, under the terms of the act imposing it, up until that time, "and no longer." By the act of July 14, 1870, from sections six to sixteen, inclusive, the act is re-enacted for the years 1870 and 1871, at two and a half per cent., repealing the promise of the first enactment that it shall be imposed, levied, and collected "no longer" than during those two years.

The seventh section of the act of July 14, 1870, exempted dividends and interest paid by corporations after the 1st of August, 1870, and continued in force such parts of the former law as were necessary to enforce the collection of taxes and penalties then due and owing.

The fifteenth and sixteenth sections reimposed a tax of five per cent. upon one half per month, or dividends and coupons for 1871, the five per cent. paid up to August 1, 1870, being considered as equivalent to two and a half per cent. for the whole year, and it also imposed a stamp duty at the time the bill was passed, was the reason of the conference committee for exempting those dividends and interest on deposits declared by the savings banks from income tax for the remainder of the year. The pending bill proposes to repeal all that part of the act of 1870 July 14, which re-enacted the tax for the years 1870 and 1871.

But two weeks now intervene until the tax will be assessed. There have been such loud and frequent complaints against this tax, there have been so many petitions for its repeal, that decisive action should be taken now.

I addressed the Senate during the last session on this question, and from the length of time I took, I will not inflict upon the Senate any repetition of what I then said, nor even any reference to those remarks I then made. I contended then, and I believe now, that the tax is unjust, unequal, inquisitorial, and unconstitutional; and I shall confine myself now to showing briefly that what was unequa and unjust under the former law, is more glaring in its inequality and injustice under the law at present, and is unnecessary, and that the true policy calls for its repeal.

The two points, then, which I wish to make in the very brief address that I propose to submit to the Senate, are, first, that the income tax was to be a temporary measure, and that it is unnecessary.

First, as to its injustice. Under the former law an inequality existed which the chairman of the Finance Committee himself admitted ought to be removed, but as the Senate, when brought face to face to vote upon a proposal to remedy it, refused to redress, and which now remains an aggravating injustice, dealing in the same manner to say "We will select the rich man and make them pay the tax," but I forbear. Mr. President, the sentiment of that Government which does not treat rich and poor alike, both in its rights and exactions, is fast disappearing. I cannot call it a republican law to exempt those incomes and that the least able to bear it, with incomes under $1,000, paid income tax, while all over $1,000, whether they could or not, paid it. I know whole annual incomes derived from corporate dividends and interest, after the 1st of July, 1870, went out of sight. Their scanty store was diminished by the inexorable order of the Government compelling the officers of the corporation to deduct five per cent. from every dividend and coupon, which fell due between July 1 and December 31, 1870. Thus one class, and that the least able to bear it, with incomes under $1,000, paid income tax, while all over $1,000, whether they could or not, paid it. Increasing the exemption to $2,000, and reducing the tax to two and a half per cent., it will leave only the widow and the orphan the two and one-half per cent. upon all incomes $2,000, and the two and one-half per cent. upon one-half per cent. upon one class of incomes under $2,000, and all other classes go free. The persons who pay this tax are those who have $2,000 income, as a general rule, have it made up from various sources, and have to make out their income tax return. The man who has but one source of income, and that one of which will realize $1,000 out of this income tax; and the statement is that the present state of business is not realizing even that amount; so that if there was a tax on salaries and coupons of bonds, the one and the bonds we should have $1,489,447 33. Then levying this tax on individual incomes, $5,483,125, we should get for 1870 $9,943,172 33. Any additional sum that is to be obtained must be by litigation, unless you hold that the salaries are not subject to any such income tax, a question I have understood upon which there is some difference. They were exempt during the past year for the reason that there was a paid five per cent. tax during 1870, until the passage of the law of July 14, 1870, after the 1st of August, 1870, none was collected from them.

Now is this worth the bad feeling, the litigation, and the exasperation that must be incurred to get it?

Mr. CONKLING—If the honorable Senator will allow me a moment, I will say that I do not understand from his statement he has made the deduction which must arise from the decision of the courts, made first in the Eastern district of New York, and then in the circuit of State officers, or upon income derived from salaries of State officers, is unconstitutional and void.

Mr. SCOTT—I have not made that deduction for the reason that I had no figures which will enable me to ascertain what it will be, but I intend before I cease to come to that question and show the injustice of the Government of the United States, which has at all points shown hostility against the taxation of bonds, enacting a law which, under its present operation, demands and appropriates a tax upon the receipts of every bond that is issued by any State in the Union.

Mr. CONKLING—Having interrupted my friend, I beg to make this suggestion in addition: I find in my diary that returns are being collected from judges and other State officers who have refused to pay the tax, and a presentation is being made now to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, the counsel have decided that the tax, as far as respects the salary of those officers, was void, and they all insisting not only that they cannot be collected hereafter, but that they have a right to receive back what has been paid in part payment.

Mr. SCOTT—If the Senator will recur to the argument which I made here at the last session he will find that I alluded to the decision of the court not only upon State officers but upon the salary of every officer of the United States, the President of the United States, was unconstitutional, and was prohibited by that section of the Constitution which prevents Congress from diminishing their salaries during their term of office. I did not wish again, as I said in the outset, to repeat any portion of that argument, but entirely to avoid it, as the pending litigation will follow the imposition and the continuance of this income tax.

Now, I call attention to the expense of collecting the internal revenue. In the report of the Secretary of the Treasury for the year 1870, I find on the last page 156 of the full report, as the cost of the system:

Collecting	$2,120,771 84
Administering office	1,132,585 66
Assessing, (page 166)	4,440,240
	$7,692,197 50

This is the expense of assessing and collecting all internal revenue. I do not wish to create the impression that I am in favor of the present system of collecting simply the income tax; it is that of all internal revenue. The exact proportion of assessing the income tax cannot be ascertained, but I am sure it is greater in proportion to the amount collected than any other tax.

Mr. SHERMAN—As that is a point which I will controvert on the question of fact, I would like to have the Senator submit the statement upon which he can sort showing that the income tax costs more to collect than any other tax. If he does not prepared to show, I think, that it costs less than any other.

Mr. SCOTT—The expenses of assessing and collecting the internal revenue taxes are so blended in the official reports that it is impossible to extract from them the exact amount of one and of the other. I have no data for that purpose. I cannot make them. But I here wish to correct a statement that has been made in regard to the present Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and to quote him as authority for what I state. He has been quoted as stating that the income tax costs more to collect than it realizes. That is not correct, I believe. The statement which did make was that the Methodist Episcopal church have also resolved to join them. The great "Methuselah," which has attracted so much attention at the National Camp Meeting will be at once forwarded to Sacramento city. The party will leave New York on the 16th of April, and proceed directly to that point, where they will be received by their brethren in the university. The "Tabernacle" is to be erected in the plaza, and a series of meetings held therein. Oregon is put down as another appointment certain, and a third is Salt Lake City. This grand programme is to be completed in time for all to be in attendance at the National Camp Meetings at Long Branch and Urbana, Ohio, during the summer.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

Nearly a Square in South Pittsburgh Laid Waste.

Nineteen Dwellings, Three Stables and Smith & Porter's Locomotive Works Burned—Loss $130,000—Partian Insurance.

A little after 5 o'clock A. M. yesterday a conflagration occurred in South Pittsburgh, which in three hours laid waste almost the entire square bounded by Chestnut alley, Bingham and Third streets and a private alley on the east, burning the extensive locomotive works of Messrs. Smith & Porter, two or three stables, and 19 dwellings, rendering twenty-eight families homeless and involving a loss of upwards of $60,000. Here are the particulars.

WHAT WAS BURNED.

The fire originated in a small frame stable, owned by Wm. E. Richards Jr., and situated on Chestnut alley near Third street, and is supposed to have been started by the upsetting or explosion of a lamp placed therein by the young man having charge of the carrying and feeding of the horses. No other theory can be advanced at present, but the Fire Marshal's investigation to-day will likely develop this to be fact. The loft was filled with hay, and when the flames reached it the fire gained such rapid headway that all attempts to check its progress were unavailing. The horses, two in number, were gotten out safely, but the stable and remainder of its contents were destroyed. Loss $300; no insurance.

SMITH & PORTER'S WORKS.

Scarce had the fire got fairly started in the stable when it was discovered that the locomotive works immediately adjoining were ablaze. The building was a three story frame, fronting fifty feet on Bingham street, and extending back a distance of one hundred feet to the alley. The first floor was occupied as the boiler room, blacksmith shop, &c.; the second as finishing room and the third pattern and wooden work department, and the entire building being saturated with oil, fed an active fire for the devouring element. All the precautionary measures adopted by the firm proved futile, and notwithstanding the most superhuman efforts were made to prevent it, it was totally destroyed. There were eighteen locomotives (and ones intended for coal mines) in course of building—nine of which were completed or nearly so. These, with all the tools and valuable machinery, patterns, &c., were entirely destroyed. Loss estimated at between $70,000 and $80,000; insurance $20,000—$2,500 each on the following companies: Western, of Buffalo, New York; Narragansett, of Providence, Rhode Island; Sweringen & McCandless, of Fourth avenue, agents; Liverpool, London and Globe, International, of New York; Pacific, of California; Corn Exchange, of New York; Cleveland Insurance Company, R. Edwards & Son, agents; North American, of Philadelphia; Hartford, of Hartford; Connecticut, Hanover, and Home, W. L. Jones, agent; and the Delaware Mutual, of Philadelphia, P. A. Medeira, agent. Of this amount only $2,000 was on stock, finished and unfinished, and the firm estimate their loss in this direction at about $60,000. Sixty men are thrown out of employment by the destruction of these works.

DWELLINGS.

From here the flames spread to dwellings on Bingham and Third streets, Chestnut alley, and to the east of the works, and in all directions were they in flames, simultaneously. Commencing at the corner of Bingham and Chestnut streets, one frame and five two story brick dwellings completely gutted. These were double houses, and were severally occupied by Terrence Reynolds, E. Evans, James Welsh, Martin Murphy, John Griffith, A. Thomas, C. Reed and Mr. Evans, the latter keeping a little store. All the occupants succeeded in saving the furniture, but Mr. Evans was unable to make his removals. The buildings were owned by W. E. Richards, Sr.

On the north side of Third street there were bricks, John Humphries occupying one, Mr. Gough a second, and the third being untenanted. The furniture was saved from the latter, but from the others it was lost. Next door were owned these three buildings. Loss in eight buildings $16,000; insurance $5,000, in the People's Company of Pittsburgh.

To the east of the locomotive works on Bingham street was a two story brick used as an office for the works. This was totally destroyed, but the books and papers were saved. Two dwellings on Chestnut alley, adjoining, caught fire, but the flames were extinguished with but little damage.

The planing works of James Wood & Co., on the opposite side of Bingham street, were on fire several times, but the flames were checked without much damage.

ON CHESTNUT ALLEY

The following buildings were burned: To the east of the locomotive works, on the north side, were four frame tenements, owned by Messrs. Ward & Cassingham, who succeeded in saving only a portion of his furniture; Joseph Bevan and James Jones; John Fagan and Thomas Hart, and Robert Sheen and Michael Hart. Loss $6,000 to Wood & Co.; insured in Arott's Agency. Three houses adjoining did not take fire, the wind changing, but they were considerably damaged by water.

On the south side of Chestnut alley, at the corner of Third street, two two-story bricks, owned and occupied by Mrs. Mooney and Mr. Tait. Next door, a two-story frame, owned and occupied by Wm. E. Jones; furniture saved; insured in the Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Company for $1,200; brick owned by Mrs. Bittner, of Allegheny, and occupied by John Reed; loss $1,500; insured in Liverpool Company; two story frame stable, belonging to Co-Operative Store, near Seventh street Bridge, kept by Richard Wilson; loss $1,000; no insurance. Another dwelling, one and a half story, loss about $1,000; no insurance, we believe; brick dwelling, owned by Mrs. Patrick Cunningham, and occupied by David Evans and John Edwards; furniture saved; dwelling insured for about half cost; dwelling, owned by Mrs. McKeever, and occupied by Festus King; insured for half of loss; stable belonging to Jas. Hunter, and kept insured in Liverpool Company. New, a small stable east of this was torn down to prevent the further spread of the flames. The rear walls of the dwellings on the north side of Third street fell in and burned some, but were extinguished with little difficulty.

We have endeavored in the foregoing to recapitulate the buildings destroyed, together with the actual loss and insurance, and the statements regarding the latter may be taken as being nearly correct. It is impossible to obtain from the owners at this time the exact figures, as the excitement that prevailed, but the Fire Marshal expects to be able to procure the statistics in detail. The total loss will approximate $150,000.

INCIDENTS.

Captain James Conway, of the Mechanics' Hose Company, narrowly escaped being buried beneath the wall of one of the buildings on Chestnut alley which fell while he was at work. A little girl and a woman who scarce made her egress before the flames were developed in flames.

A woman whose house was burning, having two small children between two and three years of age, stowed them away in a tub, which stood for several hours in an open lot, among other household furniture.

The watchman at Smith & Porter's works, labored strenuously with the hose to prevent the flames spreading from the Richard's stable, and did not have his post, in the second story window of the works until fully compelled to do so.

The cars of the Birmingham Passenger Railway Company, and the Allegheny Valley Railroad suffered the delay of two hours' detention in consequence of the hose being stretched across Carson street.

The hand engine at the works of Messrs. Wood & Co., did excellent service during the progress of the fire and the Mechanic Hose Company, of Birmingham, and the Alpha, of Pittsburgh, rendered invaluable aid in protecting the adjoining property, though the water supply was sadly deficient. Fifty minutes elapsed after the fireman arrived before a supply of water could be procured in consequence of the pipes having been frozen. The authorities of South Pittsburgh should look into this matter and have the plugs overhauled and put in repair immediately.

There were no engines from this city at the fire, the rules of the department forbidding their going out of the city.

Wm. Goodwin, tax collector, lost a pocket-book containing $90, during the fire, but subsequently found it intact, in a frozen puddle of water on First street.

Clearing Certificates were issued by the Sheriff to all promptly cared for by their friends and neighbors.

Smith & Porter will rebuild their works immediately.

CLAIMS AGAINST ENGLAND.

A Message from the President.

The Early and Satisfactory Settlement of the Alabama Claims and Fishing Question Probable—A Messenger from the Queen with a Basis of Settlement Expected to Arrive To-day.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 8, 1871.

The President will send a message to Congress to-morrow, explanatory of the present condition of the fishery question, and also accounting for the extraordinary delay in the departure of General Schenck. The message will state that England has shown a disposition to make nearly all the concessions demanded on the part of this Government so far as the fishery question and navigation of the St. Lawrence are concerned, which will constitute a basis of settlement. It is stated on good authority that the Queen's messenger will arrive at New York to-morrow with dispatches to Minister Thornton, empowering the latter to settle this matter on a basis most satisfactory to our Government. The favorable disposition of the English Government in settling these matters is said to cause much bad feeling in Canada, whose citizens feel aggrieved at what they are led to believe is a compromise of their rights. In diplomatic circles it is now of strong conviction that the Alabama claims will also be settled by a speedy and amicable solution. It has been mentioned heretofore in these dispatches that negotiations were being conducted here with regard to this matter, in which the utmost secrecy was observed. The messenger alluded to above also bears dispatches containing instructions from the British Government on this much vexed subject. The only difficulty now is the way seems to be that England desires to separate the Alabama claims from the arising from the depredations committed by the Florida, Shenandoah and others. The President is in favor of this plan, but Sumner and several other Senators are opposed to it. It is to be hoped that the messenger's dispatches will cover this disputed point, and will appear a satisfactory basis of settlement for both Congress and the President to act on.

THE LATE DISASTER

All But One of the Victims of the New Hamburg Disaster Identified.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., February 8.—It is now ascertained that a man named Rosenthal, a cattle drover, was in the first sleeping car, and escaped. He was in the drover's car at Albany yesterday. This reduces the statement that all persons in the car referred to perished.

POUGHKEEPSIE, February 8.—The only body not identified is supposed to be that of Captain Lovell, and this opinion is formed from a wallet and memoranda found on him.

List Of United States Patents

Issued to citizens of Western Pennsylvania for the week ending February 7, 1871, and each bearing that date. Reported weekly for the COMMERCIAL, from the office of David A. Burr, Solicitor of Patents and Attorney in patent cases, Washington City, D. C.

111,516—Corn planter; Leander Becker, Jackson township.

111,527—Funnel; Lester P. Edwards, Hamilton.

111,562—Churn; Wm. Parks, Meadville.

111,564—Ratchet coupling for barges, &c.; Wm. W. Patterson and Edward Bishop, Pittsburgh.

111,584—Brake for railway cars; Charles W. Tierney, Lewisburgh.

111,585—Wash-board; Westley Todd, Allegheny.

111,606—Feather renovator; James A. Bell, Tyrone, assignor to himself and H. H. Stelle, Altoona.

111,626—Device for enlarging wells; Thos. Donnely, Pittsburgh.

111,635—Hair-pin; Charles M. Gormly, Pittsburgh.

111,670—Meat cutter; Hugh B. Murphy, Allegheny city.

RE-ISSUE.

No. 4,264—Cooking stove; Charles P. Geisenhainer, Pittsburgh, assignor to Bisser & McLeod, Troy, New York. Patent No. 32,764, dated July 9, 1861.

DESIGNS.

4,640, 4,641—Molds for lager beer glasses; John P. Pears, Pittsburgh.

The Chicago *Times* says:

"The mercenary scalawags are not all at Springfield. There are seven or eight of them in the Common Council of Chicago, and they attempted, at their last meeting, to pass a resolution in favor of allowing themselves to pocket some of the funds in the City Treasury."

Which proves that Springfield and Chicago are not far different from the rest of the world, "One ouch of nature," etc.

WASHINGTON.

Argument

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, February 11, 1871.

The Tennessee.

THE RUMOR AS TO HER LOSS.

Grave Apprehensions Entertained as to Her Safety—This the Vessel's First Sea Voyage—The Mystery as to Why She Has Not Been Spoken—The Theory Entertained in Regard to the Matter.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 8, 1871.

Grave apprehensions are beginning to be entertained here with regard to the safety of the Tennessee, which conveyed the San Domingo Commission from New York. She has now been twenty-three days out, and no intelligence has been received of her from any quarter. A report was received from New York to-day, saying that she had foundered, and that all on board had been lost. The story gained rapid circulation, and created intense excitement in both houses of Congress, where members gathered in knots to discuss its probability, neglecting for the time the business in progress. Several members telegraphed immediately to New York, and were soon answered that it was without foundation. Others proceeded to the Little House and to the Navy Department, where they received like assurances. While the immediate concern was allayed upon learning that no actual news had been received, there remains an anxious feeling, which is caused by the fact that no tidings whatever of the steamer has been received. The President himself is said to have been anxious about this matter for several days. He caused a telegram to be sent to Havana last week to ascertain whether any news had been received at that port, which was answered in the negative. Senator Morton is ill and confined to his room, partly on account of his apprehensions as to the fate of the Commission. The Tennessee, it is stated, had never been to sea before, this being her first trip. She was completely overhauled before starting, and was supplied with new machinery, engines and boilers. With fair weather and her machinery keeping in good order, it was calculated that she would make the trip in eight days. The theory seems to be that her machinery got out of gear, and that she was compelled to proceed under sail, in which case it is thought it would probably take her twenty-five days to make the trip. The principal mystery seems to be why it is she has not been spoken, inasmuch as her route, the entire trip, was along the path which is followed by our entire coastwise and gulf trade. This is the chief subject of talk to-night, both in private and official circles. There is no doubt that the startling rumor of the afternoon has awakened apprehensions which will not be allayed until the receipt of definite intelligence.

THE LATE HORROR.

The Investigation of the Coroner.

Testimony of the Conductor of the Train and Others—Twenty-one Persons Known to be Killed.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., February 8.—The Coroner's inquest in the case of the recent railroad horror commenced to-day before Coroner Andrews, upon the body of Walter Stafford. The first witness was ex-District Attorney W. J. Thorne, of Poughkeepsie, who testified as follows:

"I was in the rear car and asleep. First I heard a crash. Great confusion ensued, and I got out and walked up outside of the car on the river side. The engine of the oil train had passed my train before I went out. Part of that train was then on the bridge. There were several tanks of oil in it—I saw nothing but flames. They were in every direction. Everything seemed to be in a sheet of fire. There were some cars on the bridge which had not fallen from the track. The fire must have enveloped everything at once. I directed a man I saw to uncouple the next car to him, which he did, as we showed them by signs. All this has occurred on the drawbridge. My impression is that four cars were destroyed. I saw passengers getting out of the fourth car from the rear. The fire was very hot, and one would keep going from it all the while, the flames shooting up fifty or one hundred feet. I often had been half a dozen cars piled up they could not have been seen for the flame. It appeared from the looks of this that the car on the rear of the last was Hamburg station. The oil car was not on fire until struck by the locomotive of the up train."

Charles Cassum, conductor of the express train, was sworn, and says: We left New York at six minutes past eight Monday evening. We should have left at 8 o'clock.

Here Tristam Coffin, District Attorney, appeared for the people and conducted the proceedings.

The witness continuing, said: I was sitting in the rear end of the second sleeping car with Mr. Scott, the Conductor. He heard the first whistle that was blown. We passed Fishkill at fifteen minutes past ten. The whistle was probably blown twenty minutes past ten. We were seventeen minutes behind it at Fishkill. I heard the second whistle, and went out on the platform and commenced to put on the brakes. Mr. Scott followed me out and put on the brake on the other car. As I got my brake on and turned to take hold of the other, I felt the engineer reverse the engine; in two or three seconds I felt a shock, and the car then went on fifteen or twenty feet and came to a dead stand. I saw the glare of light, and looking out saw a mass of flames. I was on the river side. The instant the train stopped the light flashed like gunpowder. Oil from the oil car entered the fire-box of the engine and ignited. A line of fire sprang up like a wall of fire. The forepart of my car was then on fire. I heard no explosion. You could see nothing because of the fire. Scott and myself then got all the passengers out of the car. The car was all on fire. It was the second sleeping car. There was only one in front of it. The train consisted of a locomotive, express car, baggage car, five sleeping cars and one coach. When we went out of the branch I thought the flames would follow. All the passengers were then out of the third car, and that part of the train was uncoupled and shoved back. Part of the train had broken loose and gone south, and the other part was further back. When I got to the third car forward, the platform was on fire. That was the car Scott had put the brake on, and then found we had saved all we could, and that fire showed we had gone too far forward to see what was the matter. I could see nothing all the way up to the bridge for the flames, which seemed to be standing twenty-five or thirty feet. I knew nothing more about the accident, except that I did the necessary telegraphing. I have no absolute knowledge as to the first car going off the track. I only conjecture that the first and second sleepers were on the bridge, and the flames were burning under the bridge on the ice. I heard no sound of anything—but the roar of the flames. Peter Versburgh was conductor of the sleeping car. I don't know whether the patent brakes were used. If the ropes had been pulled my brake would not have been affected after I had put it on. The engine was reversed after it had run about ten rods. We were not trying to make up time. The engineer was considered a good man. There is a flag man at the draw. The engineer said he told him he put out a red light as he passed. The first signal we got was forty yards from the bridge. The engineer of the oil train had jumped off to give the signal. I think that the cars on the oil train which ran off were rather back of the center of the train. As near as we can time, if we had not been behind time the accident would not have occurred. The night was perfectly clear. The curve south of the bridge would prevent the engineer from seeing a car off the track on the bridge. I had taken up all the tickets in the sleeping cars. You could put thirty passengers in the sleeping cars, but twelve could occupy the whole. There were two state rooms in the first car, but only one occupied. I should judge there were sixteen or seventeen in the first sleeper. I made the same statement which appeared in the Poughkeepsie *Eagle*, relative to having sixty-five sleeping car tickets. I found one or more persons who said they were in the first sleeper, but when I came to sift them down they could not tell. I had in my car forty-seven passengers, who told me they were in the sleeper. There were three persons who went to bed at New Hamburg; that made thirteen missing. There was one epileptic person in the sleeping car that I got a half ticket from. I got no tickets from two small children. I found no one to respond to the half ticket. There were three brakemen on the train.

Here the witness described the patent brakes, but could not say whether they were applied. The trains ran at full speed over all bridges. The inquest was then adjourned until 2:30 P. M.

During the afternoon session Mr. Scott, conductor of the sleeping car, testified as to his positive knowledge of the fact that the assertion of some of the cars except the first sleeping car were saved, and that the train was running about thirty miles an hour.

Mr. Marman P. Grant, conductor of a sleeping car, testified "that directly after the first shock he saw the first sleeping car lying on its side, inclining to to the east and parallel with the track. It was in flames and no help could be given those inside."

The inquest then adjourned until Thursday at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Up to this time no more bodies have been recovered, but grappling still continues. All the bodies found thus far have been identified. Many more bodies are yet to be recovered, that of Summons, the engineer, and Lawrence Mooney, brakeman, which makes twenty-one victims in all. The body of a child's undershirts were found on the ice marked Ella Shields. I have seen Ripley Tuckerman, conductor of the oil train, to-night. He says the accident was caused by a broken axle of the oil car. The broken axle on the west of New Hamburg Station, and as the caboose passed some one hollooed "everything was done that was possible; stop the train." He saw the oil car run on the bridge and saw it about to cross on the up track. The train was then nearly stopped when he got off on the ground and his brother on the down track, both looking for the up train. His brother immediately uncoupled, "where upon the train." Every effort was made to stop it, but it looked as if no person on earth could do it. He saw the locomotive strike the car when flames burst out in every direction.

APICULTURE.

Meeting of the American Bee Keepers' Convention in Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, February 8.—The American Bee Keepers' Convention assembled to-day. It embraces some of the most noted bee keepers in the country. About one hundred and fifty delegates are present, among the number several ladies. Wm. L. Clarke, of Oneida, Ont., is Chairman. A short invocation was adopted. It provides the usual officers. Any person may become a member and for annual membership, L. T. Longstreth, of Oxford, was unanimously elected President; Rev. H. A. King, of New Castle, Secretary. Assistant Secretaries—Mrs. Adair, Kentucky; L. C. Waite, Missouri; Vice Presidents, New York, Rev. E. Vanshyck; Kentucky, A. Nesbitt; Missouri, H. Pickett; Ohio, Mrs. E. S. Tupper; Wisconsin, A. H. Horke; Illinois, T. C. Frances; Ontario, Rev. W. F. Clarke; New Jersey, E. J. Peck; Pennsylvania, Seth Hoagland; Ohio, A. Benedict; Tennessee, Dr. T. B. Hamlin; Kansas, T. J. Judge; Minnesota, Rev. W. Hosmer; Michigan, S. Moore; Indiana, Dr. John F. Wright; Treasurer, N. C. Mitchell, Indiana.

Resolutions were adopted providing that the next meeting be held the first Wednesday of next December, in Cincinnati, and that the next place as the North American Bee Keepers' Association.

A committee was appointed to confer with a similar committee from the other body with a view to the union of the two Associations. Adjourned until evening.

The American Bee Keepers' Convention spent the whole night discussing the mode of wintering bees.

THE WOOL INTEREST.

Meeting of the Woolen Manufacturers' Association at Chicago.

CHICAGO, February 8.—The fourth annual meeting of the Woolen Manufacturers' Association was commenced at the Tremont House to-day. Delegates are present from Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, Ohio, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, New York, and Michigan. After the reception formalities, Mr. Stebbins, of Detroit, offered a resolution in favor of schools or universities of technology, to include chemistry as applied to textile fabrics, and other special branches, which was referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

A committee of five was appointed to consider all propositions relative to the place of holding the next exposition.

FORT WAYNE, IND.

Leader of a Kansas Mob of Lynchers Arrested.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, IND., February 7, 1871.

Reuben Stevens was arrested near here yesterday as the ringleader of a mob who took from a jail in Atchinson County, Kansas, last June, a man named Johnson, and hanging him. Dolson was charged with the murder of an old man boy, and burying him in an old well. Stevens was arrested for murder in the second degree, but made his escape, since which the authorities have been on his track up to this time. He now awaits a requisition from Kansas.

Monday clear and cold, with a slight fall of snow Tuesday.

FINANCE AND TRADE

WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 8, 1871.

There is no change in the condition of the local money market. An active demand for loans still characterizes its operations, and the supply of loanable means is hardly up to the wants of regular customers. We notice a good deal of paper on the market, which is very difficult to place at any moderate rates. Private lenders are exceedingly shy of promissory notes.

—There is a light business doing in local stocks, without much change in prices. Exchange National Bank shares sold at 71 and Merchants at 70; a small lot of Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad sold at 93¾—which was below the price obtained a few months ago. Columbia oil stock is quite firm at 17¼@17¾. It is said that the daily yield of the former is 434 barrels.

—Messrs. Ira R. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morning Noon.	Clos'g.
U. S. Bonds of 1881	113¾	113¾
U. S. Bonds of 1862	111¾	111¾
U. S. Bonds of 1864	111¾	111¾
U. S. Bonds of 1865	110½	110½
U. S. Bonds of 1865 (new)	109½	109½
U. S. Bonds of 1867	109½	109½
U. S. Bonds of 1868	109¾	109¾
10-40s	109½	109½
Gold	111¼	111¼

James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	111¼
United States 6s of 1867	113
United States 5-20s of 1862	111¾
United States 5-20s of 1864	110¾
United States 5-20s of 1865	110½
United States 10-40s	109¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1865	109½
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	109½
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	109½
Union Pacific Railroad	79¾
Central Pacific Railroad	90¾
Currency Pacifics	109¾

—The New York *World* of yesterday says: The scarcity of commercial foreign bills of exchange in the face of an increase of nearly fifty per cent. in the quantity of cotton exported, the figures being 1,092,746 bales exported this year against 979,331 bales for the corresponding period of last year, is causing considerable discussion in regard to the future course of the foreign exchange and gold markets. The importations are greater in amount than they were last year, the total at this port being 829,-116,160 against January 1, against $23,679,821 last year and $25,712,362 in 1869. Last year our cotton exports realized about $60,000,000 more in money for the same number of bales than the same is likely to be this year. The shipments of bonds and other securities to Europe were estimated at not less than $100,000,000 for the year ending July, 1870. Since the Franco-German war commenced in July last, the shipments of bonds returned from Europe than we have shipped there. The question then arises as to what we shall export to Europe in the place of the decrease in the value of cotton and bonds exported, providing our importations are not decreased, of which there seems to be no immediate prospect.

—The *Chicago Tribune* says: There has been considerable speculative excitement in the grain markets, and grain operators have composed the largest class of borrowers. Wheat is the speculative specialty, and the following shows the comparative movements of this and the Liverpool market since January 1:

	December 31.	February 4.
Liverpool (per cental)	10s	11s
Chicago (per bushel)	$1 08	$1 31

The foregoing shows that the advance in Liverpool since the corresponding period has been one shilling per cental, equal to 13c in American gold, or 14½c in currency per bushel. This advance in Liverpool had induced an advance of 23c per bushel, at the price in this market on Thursday of this week, but, after the intense excitement of the past few days, the advance compared with the price at the beginning of the year is 16c per bushel in Chicago, against 14½c in Liverpool. Chicago must be remembered, however, that 11s per cental in Liverpool is equivalent to $1 60 per bushel in American gold, or $1 77 per bushel in currency, and that the total expenses of shipment to Liverpool, and sale there, is equal to over 50c currency per bushel.

—The railway list at the New York Stock Exchange to-day was rather tame and fluctuations light. New York Central, 96¾; 96¾; 96¾ and 96¾; Erie, 21¾; 21¾; 21¾, and 21¾; Reading, 98¼; 98¾; 98¾, and 98¾; Lake Shore, 94¾, 94, 94 and 94¾; Northwestern, 84¾; 84¾; 84¾, and 84¾; Fort Wayne, 94¾; 94¾; 94¾, and 94¾; Ohio and Mississippi, 35¾; 35¾; 35¾ and 35¾.

—Messrs. Bowen & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, furnish the following quotations of the closing prices to-day of the most active stocks:

Pennsylvania Central	61¾
Philadelphia and Erie	29
Lehigh Navigation	44¾
Catawissa preferred	36¾
Oil Creek and Allegheny Railroad	46¼
Lehigh Valley Railroad	60
North Pennsylvania Railroad	44
Camden and Amboy Railroad	121¼
Schuylkill Navigation	17
Reading	49¾

The *Ledger*, in its money article yesterday morning, makes the following revelation: Considerable anxiety has been manifested on Third street, if it did not exist on the floor of the Stock Exchange, by the discovery of pretty heavy amounts owned by brokers in the Philadelphia and other out-of-town banks. These notes are mostly among the drug men, one of which purports to have been drawn by Russell & Landis, one by O. S. Janney & Co., and others, we understand, on parties nearly related to the partners of the forgeries, who is a well-known Pittsburgh merchant, engaged in active business on his own account. The whole amount of this fraudulent paper that has been discovered and traced thus far, does not probably, exceed $25,000 or $30,000.

—JAMES W. KENNEDY, Broker, No. 80 Fourth avenue, (Apollo Building), dealer in Government, State and Municipal Bonds, Railroad, Bank, Insurance and Miscellaneous Stocks. Represented daily at the New York Stock Exchange, he buys and sells stocks on all markets, for the same commission and on the same terms as the New York brokers. Money to loan in sums of $500 and upwards on collateral or well-indorsed promissory notes, or on mortgages on city or Allegheny county real estate.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } THURSDAY, February 9, 1871. }

REMARKS.—After a slight fall of snow last night the weather "turned warm," the snow disappeared, and left the streets in anything but a good condition for pedestrians. With regard to the markets, we have no changes to note. Everything of special fair, legitimate trade is reported, with ample stocks and bright anticipations for the coming spring opening. By reference to the imports in another column it will be noticed that the leading grocers and flour dealers, port merchants, etc., are largely augmenting their stocks. Grain is coming in freely and prices are weak at quotations.

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce for the past two weeks, which will be found useful for reference:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	7,245	8,438	15,683
Apples, bbls	667	2,246	1,913
Potatoes, bushels	992	312	514
Corn, sacks	5,575	3,892	8,677
Oats, sacks	6,943	9,034	15,778
Barley, sacks	2,326	11,356	13,682
Rye, sacks	1,402	1,190	2,592
Hay, sacks	4,583	4,795	9,718
Butter, packages	383	414	797
Bulk meat, pieces	3,026	5,011	6,996
Bacon, hds., etc	157	285	442

Below are the wholesale prices unless otherwise noted:

APPLE BUTTER—The market is well supplied. We note sales 1 gal. buckets at $10 50 ₱ doz; ½ gallon 60c@70c.

ASHES—The market contains a in fair supply. Sales soda ash, common, ₱ per ton, 2½c; refined, 3c per lb; crude, 2½c; pearl, 6½c; pots, 9¼ @ 9½c ₱ lb.

APPLES—The current prices were $4 00@4 50 ₱ bbl, choice selected $5 00 ₱ bbl. Receipts 173 bbls.

BUTTER—The market contains a fair supply, the receipts being 383 packages and the demand is quiet at the following figures: Strictly prime lots 29@32c; choice lots 26@28c; common to medium 22@25c.

BAR LEAD—Sales in a regular way at 10½c ₱ lb.

BROOM CORN—Supply liberal, sales at 5@6½c ₱ lb. Small sales of hurl reported. We quote as per quality, $1.75.

BEESWAX—Market firm; sales at 30@31c ₱ lb.

BAKING POWDER—Banner ½-lb cans, ₱ doz, $1 75; ½-lb cans, $2 25; 1-lb cans, $6; 5-lb cans, $30.

BRAN, SHORTS AND FLOUR—The supply is heavy, and prices unchanged; sales at $2 25@2 50 ₱ cwt.

BACON AND PROVISIONS.—We are reported a fair trade in Canada. Prices are firm and unchanged, with ample stocks of prime quality. We quote: Shoulders, plain, 10a10½c; sugar cured, 11½@12c; hams, ribbed, 13½@14c; clear, 10, 12½c. Sweet pickled bacon, 16½c. Hams, plain, 16c; sugar cured, 17c. Mess pork, $23@23 50 in bbls. Dried beef, 12c. Chicago primes, 11@11½c; Cincinnati extra No. 1 winter strained lard oil, 95c gallon, ₱ bbl.

CREESE—There is a fair inquiry for a good article, and we quote Western Reserve at 14@14½c; Ohio factory 13@15½c; Ohio Goshen 16c; New York Goshen 16@16½c; Sweitzer 18c ₱ lb.

CORN MEAL—Market well supplied; sales at 90 @95c ₱ bushel.

CHEESE—Sales at 8¼@8½ ₱ bbl.

CHARCOAL—Supplied Live—Pennsylvania $6@6 50; Philadelphia $5 75.

CANDLES—Sales standard brands at 22@24c by car load. Supply ample.

CEMENT—Sales of Louisville hydraulic at $2 33 50 ₱ barrel. Plumsock hydraulic $2 50@2 75 ₱ barrel.

CANDLES—Supply fair; mould at 12½c; star, full weight, 16c; short weight, 15c; adamantine 18@19c ₱ lb.

CRANBERRIES—The market was steady with a good trade demand. The extreme ranges of prices are $10 @12 per barrel, the latter for Jackett's Bells' brand.

COAL—The supply in the market was sufficient for all ordinary purposes. We note sales at Eastern quarries at $8@9 50 ₱ ton.

DRESSED HOGS—The market is about "played out," still we are reported sales in a small way at 7½c ₱ lb.

DRIED FRUIT—There is a fair inquiry, and we are reported sales as follows: Apples, sliced, 9@9½c; quartered, 6½@7c; peeled, 22@25c. Dried apples plenty and dull at 7c for bright, and 9c for peeled. Dried blackberries, 17@18c; dried cherries 25c per ₱; unpitted do, 7@8c.

EGGS—Are more plentiful, and prices lower; fresh sell at 25c @28c ₱ dozen; packed, 18@22c.

FLOUR—We have no change to make in prices. Receipts since our last, 145 bbls. Grades: Choice white wheat, in bbls, 7 50@7 75, sacks 7c less; good brands white wheat, $7 25 in sacks 25c less; choice Minnesota, for baker's use, $7 25; choice Minnesota brands $6 50@6 75; seconds, (white wheat), in barrels $7 00; in sacks $7 60; Pan Handle, (Southern spring wheat) in barrels $7 00, in sacks $6 90; Morning Glory, in barrels $6 50, in sacks $7 00; Palmetto, in barrels, $6 50, in sacks $6 75.

GRAIN—The market continues to move along steadily, with a fair demand for certain descriptions, whilst other kinds were neglected, attracting only a limited amount of attention. The most prominent feature being engendered, prices are uncertain. Rye continues steady, with a fair demand for medium sized lots; prices are without change. Millers are not disposed to make concessions in order to effect sales. We quote nominally at 80@85c. The market for barley continues dull; buyers refuse to pay the present rates, whilst holders decline making sufficient concessions. The receipts are at a stand still; nominal figures; spring sold at 90@95c ₱ bush.

FOREIGN FRUITS—We are reported sales of currants at 11@11½ ₱ lb; prunes 11½@12c; Valencia raisins 15@15½ ₱; layer raisins $3 75 per box.

FEATHERS—The market is in good demand, and sales regularly made as follows: Live geese feathers No 1 to the trade 90c ₱ lb; 85c in a small way. Live geese feathers, No 2, 65@70c. Occasionally sales are being daily made to the stock on hand. Prices are unchanged, and we quote:

Raw Sugars—Choice 11¾c; prime 11¼c; good 10¾c; fair 9¾c. Porto Rico—Choice 11¾c; prime 11¼c.

Refined Sugars—Hards 15c: A coffee 14c; B coffee 13½c; extra C 13¼c; C yellow 13¼@13½c; Demerara, boxes, white, 15c ₱ lb.

Syrups—H and E 80c; white honey 75c; silver drips 66c; extra honey 70c; lower grade 40 to 50c.

New Orleans Molasses—Good 65c; prime 70c; choice 75c.

Coffees—Strictly prime 19¼c; prime 18½c; good 16½@17c; fair 15½@16½c; roasted in papers 22c.

Teas—Fancy Young Hyson $1 40; prime $1; fair $1 00; common and low grade 75c. Fancy $1 40; good $1 25; fair $1 10; Imperial fancy $1 40; good $1 25; fair $1 10; Gunpowder fancy $1 25; good 90c@$1; Souchong fancy $1 20; good 90c; fair 70c. Japan fancy $1 60; good 90c; fair 75c.

Spices—Allspice 20c. Pepper 21c. Cloves 90c. Cassia 60c.

Rice—Sales of choice Carolina at 8½c; prime 8c; good 7½c.

HAY—Receipts are increasing; sales of baled at $18 00@19 00; on wagon lots $19@14@17.

HIDES—Quiet; sales at 5@5½c per lb.

HORNS—We are noted sales in a regular way at $6 25 for pearl; common at 25@5 50 ₱ 100.

HONEY—Sales at 30@35c ₱ lb.

HOPS—Green salted call weights 10½@11½; green

butchers (cow and steer) 7@8; green salted kip 14@16; do calf 16@18. Dry Flint nominal at 20@22.

HORSE—Sales of new crop at 21@25c ₱ lb.

LIME—Market well supplied; sales of Cleveland white at $2 25. Eastern $1 75 ₱ bbl.

LARD OIL—We are reported sales at the following: Pittsburgh, No. 1 $1 12; No. 2 80@85c. Cincinnati and Chicago winter strained $1 13 ₱ gallon.

MILL FEED—The stock on hand is ample and the demand fair; sales middlings at $1 50@1 75 ₱ cwt.

POULTRY—We quote as follows: Dressed chickens 12@14c ₱ lb; turkeys 17@18c ₱ lb.

POTATOES—The supply is ugly up to the demand; sales from first hands at $1 15@1 20 per bush; store at $1 25@1 30.

PEANUTS—Supply and demand fair; sales at 6@8c for new Tennessee.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER.—We are reported sales in the cans $1 50; ½-lb $3 00; 1lb $6 00 per dozen.

RAGS—Regular sales at 4@4½c per lb.

STOCK—Sales of Tennessee at 45c ₱ lb.

SALT—Sales by the car load at $1 60@1 65; the usual advance from stores.

SEEDS—There is more inquiry and clover seed is held firmly at $6 50@6 75 ₱ bush; timothy $5 25@5 75; flax seed $2 10@2 12 ₱ bush.

SAPOLIN—We are quoted sales at $6 50 per half gross.

SOAP—Babbitt's, 11c; Oakley's, 10½c; chemical olive, 8c; rosin, No. 1, 6c ₱ lb.

SODA—Sales in kegs 6c; boxes, assorted papers 8c; sal soda 3½c ₱ lb.

TALLOW—We are noted sales of city refined at 8¾ @9c ₱ lb.

TERNIPS—Supply in excess of the demand; sales by the bbl, at $2 00; bushel at 60@75c.

WOODENWARE—Following are wholesale prices per dozen: Pails, 2 hoop, $2 40; 3 hoop $2 65. Tubs, No. 1, 3 hoops, $7 00; No. 2, 3 hoops, $9 50; No. 3, 3 hoops, $8 50. Washboards $3 00.

WILLOWS—The market contains a good supply, with an active inquiry. We are reported sales of Kentucky Willows at 10c ₱ lb.

WHISKY—The market is rather weak, with a downward tendency. The following are the ruling figures of the market: Highwines 92c; common rectified 86c; proof rectified 91c; rye and corn $1 62@1 70 ₱ gallon; old Monongahela whisky $4@8 ₱ gallon, as to age.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } THURSDAY, February 9, 1871. }

REMARKS.—The market yesterday was unsettled with but little doing for the want of practical special notice; holders were firm in their views and not disposed to make terms. The result was but few lots changed hands; buyers generally being disposed to wait for the result of the oil movement on the creek.

The following are the sales and quotations, viz: Spot oil, 11¾c; February 11¾c; lines till July, 11½c; 80 till July, 12@12½c; 8 00 till July 11½c; 80 all year, 13½c; 80 all year, 13½@14c.

SALES:

1,000 bbls spot.....11¾c
500 bbls spot.....11¾c
1,000 bbls February.....11¾c

REFINED.

The market was a quiet one. Buyers were holding off, declining to pay the rates that were demanded. The result was, we learn, but one lot of a single transaction for any delivery. The nominal rates were: Spot 24c@24½c; February, 24½@25c; March, 25½c; April, 25¾c; May, 25½@25¾c; March 25¾@25¾c.

COOPERAGE.

Oil Barrels—Market well supplied. Some 18,000 or 20,000 barrels have arrived within the last few days. Buyers scarce. Sales 400 on spot (short haul) at $1 73 each; 1,000 on spot (long haul) at $1 76.

(Western Times Evening Issue.)

TITUSVILLE, February 8.—The market yesterday was quiet with no particular change. On upper road buyers offering $2 25@2 30; sellers generally firm. We heard of no sales below $4 35. On lower river little oil was offering, buyers not being disposed to pay the price asked. Sales of 1,000 bbls at $2 60@4 25 for regardless; $4 00@4 25 for gravity, $4 50 being the highest point reached, and $4 25 for the latter. There was a settlement of 500 bbls at $4 40, but the market price was $4 50, with a firm feeling.

SALES.

Upper road 500 bbls at $4 35; 1,000 bbls at $4 35; 500 bbls at $4 30.

Lower road two cars sold regardless at $4 45; six cars, regardless, at $4 50; three cars, 45 gravity, at $4 00; six cars Oil City, regardless, $4 25.

NEW YORK, February 8.—Closing T.—Market dull and prices nominal for crude, bulk here 23½c; at 10c; refined S. W held at 25¾c; no sales reported. Philadelphia delivery: Prices have further declined fraction, but closed very unsettled. We quote refined at 24¾@25¾c for this month. An exchange is reported of 500 bbls on a basis of the inside price.

OIL CITY, February 8.—Market firm at $4 70 on the lower road, and $4 90@4 95 at Oil City for 47 gravity.

PETROLEUM CENTRE, February 8.—Market firm and advancing; offering $4 60@4 70; asking $4 80 @4 90.

PHILADELPHIA, February 8.—Market very quiet and unchanged; offering $4 90@5 00 ₱ bbl; asking $5 25@5 75; bulk 23½c; refined S. W. 25½c; crude 13½c; futures—March 25½; April 25¾c; May 25½c; cases 29½@30c.

NEW YORK, February 8.—Market nominally at $4 20 on the upper creek.

(By Pacific and Atlantic Line.)

PHILADELPHIA, February 8.—Crude 13½. Refined —February 24¾@24¾c; March 25c; March to May 25¼@25¾c; March to June 25½c asked.

OIL CITY, February 8.—Opened regarally $4 70; gravity $4 80; Oil City regardles $4 90@4 95; gravity $5 00. Market quiet and firm.

NEW YORK, February 8.—Market still quiet but a shade firmer; crude is quoted at 18¼@13½c, with no sales reported; refined steadier at 26c; sales 1,000 bbls last half this month at 26c.

PLEASANTVILLE, February 8.—Market quiet at $4 00.

ROUSEVILLE, February 8.—Market very quiet; offering $4 75 to $4 90 for regardless; asking $4 75 with little inquiry. No sales reported.

TITUSVILLE, February 8.—Market very quiet and inactive at $4 40@4 50 for regardless.

TIDIOUTE, February 8.—Market firmer; gravity could be bought for $4 90.

PETROLEUM CENTER, February 8.—Market quiet; bidding $4 50. No sellers and no transactions.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PIG IRON BLOOM, AND ORE MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } SATURDAY, February 4, 1871. }

Our metal market is quiet, consumers being unwilling to meet the views of the producers. The stock of pig iron is light; although the receipts are rather heavy, they are principally for the fulfillment of former contracts. The sales are meagre. The January receipts show a material increase over the corresponding month of last year. The general opinion is that prices have touched bottom. We are reported the following sales:

Bituminous Coal—Smelted from L. S. Ore.

700 tons gray forge.....$31 00—6 mos.
400 tons gray forge.....principally 30 00—6 mos.
300 tons gray forge.....31 00—4 mos.
200 tons gray forge.....30 50—cash.
200 tons gray forge.....31 00—4 mos.

Anthracite.

500 tons gray forge.....$30 00—4 mos.
200 tons gray forge.....31 00—4 mos.
200 tons red short.....31 00—4 mos.
200 tons red short.....30 00—4 mos.
60 tons close gray.....29 00—4 mos.
60 tons mottled neutral.....30 00—4 mos.
100 tons extra gray forge, favorite brand 32 00—cash.
20 tons extra No. 2 foundry, favorite brand.....34 00—4 mos.
20 tons No 1 extra foundry.....36 00—4 mos.
40 tons No 2 foundry.....33 00—4 mos.
20 tons No 2 foundry.....33 00—4 mos.
10 tons No. 1 foundry.....35 25—4 mos.
20 tons mottled C. R.....59 00—4 mos.

Allegheny Coke.

200 tons Red Bank.....$31 00—6 mos.

Charcoal.

100 tons Allegheny cold short.....$31 00—6 mos.
50 tons Juniata cold short.....30 00—6 mos.
100 tons No. 1 H R, charcoal foundry.....26 50—5 mos.
150 tons No. 1 H R, charcoal foundry.....27 00—6 mos.
50 tons No. 1 warm blast.....32 00—4 mos.

Blooms.

20 tons Juniata.....$85 00—4 mos.
10 tons Juniata.....75 00—4 mos.
20 tons Juniata.....87 00—4 mos.

Below are the wholesale prices unless otherwise noted:

APPLE BUTTER—The market is well supplied. We note sales 1 gal. buckets at $10 50 ₱ doz; ½ gallon 60@70c.

ASHES—The market contains a in fair supply. Sales soda ash, common, ₱ per ton, 2½c; refined, 3c per lb; crude, 2½c; pearl, 6½c; pots, 9¼ @ 9½c ₱ lb.

APPLES—The current prices were $4 00@4 50 ₱ bbl, choice selected $5 00 ₱ bbl. Receipts 173 bbls.

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BROOM CORN—Supply liberal, sales at 5@6½c ₱ lb. Small sales of hurl reported. We quote as per quality, $1.75.

BEESWAX—Market firm; sales at 30@31c ₱ lb.

BAKING POWDER—Banner ½-lb cans, ₱ doz, $1 75; ½-lb cans, $2 25; 1-lb cans, $6; 5-lb cans, $30.

BRAN, SHORTS AND FLOUR—The supply is heavy, and prices unchanged; sales at $2 25@2 50 ₱ cwt.

BACON AND PROVISIONS.—We are reported a fair trade in Canada. Prices are firm and unchanged, with ample stocks of prime quality. We quote: Shoulders, plain, 10a10½c; sugar cured, 11½@12c; hams, ribbed, 13½@14c; clear, 10, 12½c. Sweet pickled bacon, 16½c. Hams, plain, 16c; sugar cured, 17c. Mess pork, $23@23 50 in bbls. Dried beef, 12c. Chicago primes, 11@11½c; Cincinnati extra No. 1 winter strained lard oil, 95c gallon, ₱ bbl.

CREESE—There is a fair inquiry for a good article, and we quote Western Reserve at 14@14½c; Ohio factory 13@15½c; Ohio Goshen 16c; New York Goshen 16@16½c; Sweitzer 18c ₱ lb.

CORN MEAL—Market well supplied; sales at 90 @95c ₱ bushel.

COAL—Sales at $7, $8@10 ₱ bbl.

CHARCOAL—Supplied Live—Pennsylvania $6@6 50; Philadelphia $5 75.

CANDLES—Sales standard brands at 22@24c by car load. Supply ample.

CEMENT—Sales of Louisville hydraulic at $2 33 50 ₱ barrel. Plumsock hydraulic $2 50@2 75 ₱ barrel.

CANDLES—Supply fair; mould at 12½c; star, full weight, 16c; short weight, 15c; adamantine 18@19c ₱ lb.

CRANBERRIES—The market was steady with a good trade demand. The extreme ranges of prices are $10 @12 per barrel, the latter for Jackett's Bells' brand.

COAL—The supply in the market was sufficient for all ordinary purposes. We note sales at Eastern quarries at $8@9 50 ₱ ton.

DRESSED HOGS—The market is about "played out," still we are reported sales in a small way at 7½c ₱ lb.

DRIED FRUIT—There is a fair inquiry, and we are reported sales as follows: Apples, sliced, 9@9½c; quartered, 6½@7c; peeled, 22@25c. Dried apples plenty and dull at 7c for bright, and 9c for peeled. Dried blackberries, 17@18c; dried cherries 25c per ₱; unpitted do, 7@8c.

EGGS—Are more plentiful, and prices lower; fresh sell at 25c @28c ₱ dozen; packed, 18@22c.

FLOUR—We have no change to make in prices. Receipts since our last, 145 bbls. Grades: Choice white wheat, in bbls, 7 50@7 75, sacks 7c less; good brands white wheat, $7 25 in sacks 25c less; choice Minnesota, for baker's use, $7 25; choice Minnesota brands $6 50@6 75; seconds, (white wheat), in barrels $7 00; in sacks $7 60; Pan Handle, (Southern spring wheat) in barrels $7 00, in sacks $6 90; Morning Glory, in barrels $6 50, in sacks $7 00; Palmetto, in barrels, $6 50, in sacks $6 75.

GRAIN—The market continues to move along steadily, with a fair demand for certain descriptions, whilst other kinds were neglected, attracting only a limited amount of attention. The most prominent feature being engendered, prices are uncertain. Rye continues steady, with a fair demand for medium sized lots; prices are without change. Millers are not disposed to make concessions in order to effect sales. We quote nominally at 80@85c. The market for barley continues dull; buyers refuse to pay the present rates, whilst holders decline making sufficient concessions. The receipts are at a stand still; nominal figures; spring sold at 90@95c ₱ bush.

FOREIGN FRUITS—We are reported sales of currants at 11@11½ ₱ lb; prunes 11½@12c; Valencia raisins 15@15½ ₱; layer raisins $3 75 per box.

FEATHERS—The market is in good demand,

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1871.

TERMS.

One copy, per year.....$2 00
A clubs of twenty per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter up of the club.

THE SALARY BILL—HOW NOT TO DO IT?

An old Roman satirist wrote—for the benefit of the non-classical reader we give a liberal translation—"any ignoramus can raise as many objections in an hour as a hundred of the wisest and most learned men can answer in a day. Granting that the satirist attributes too much force to untutored ingenuity, and concedes too little weight to enlightened reason, every impartial observer will recognize a large measure of truth, if not an aphorism in the words quoted. We are reminded too of the saying of Dr. FRANKLIN, "that every excuse is more than half a lie," which must be taken also with some grains of allowance, and as referring to the aggregate not to the particular.

We are led into this line of reflection by the efforts now being made to discredit and defeat Mr. WHITE'S Salary Bill. We do not think that the objections to the bill proceed from ignorance; they come from the sharpened ingenuity of the politician. The great problem with them is how *not* to do it.

The reform contemplated by Mr. WHITE'S bill is not only easily practicable, but absolutely free from difficulty of any kind. All that is needed is a provision that the county officers shall receive a fixed salary, payable out of the fees of their respective offices, and that the residue be paid into the county Treasury. There is no necessity for any other change in existing laws. Perhaps it would be better to pay the fees and costs as received into the county Treasury, and let officers draw their salaries monthly. The Controller or an auditor appointed by the courts could supervise this branch of revenue. Everything needed could be embraced in a bill of twenty lines. Ingenuity can conjure up objections and raise mountains of difficulties in the road of the needed reform; but every man of sense, not wilfully blind sees that there is no real obstacle in the way. Where there is a will there is a way; but where there is no will, no way.

Gentlemen bring forward all the resources of your ingenuity to the solution of the great problem, "How not to do it." No doubt you may be successful; but the victory will be more fatal to you than a hundred defeats. The people will be able to judge who is honest in this business.

EXTENSIVE immigration from France is confidently looked for by many as a consequence of the great war at length apparently brought to a close. A remarkable trait of the French people has always been the steadfastness with which they cleave to their country, a reluctance to emigrate which nothing but stern necessity is sufficient to overcome. In their imagination enforced emigration is encompassed with horrors which people of some other nations find it difficult to understand. The pains of exile, the miseries of homesickness are more poignantly felt by them than most others. These sufferings do not grow less with time; as LOUIS VEUILLOT says when mentioning the homesickness of his countrymen in Algiers—"there is no consolation for such grief, no remedy against this dark delirium. They suffer and they wish to suffer; they weep and they wish to weep; they are insane with sorrow." French people cannot settle down in a foreign country, like the Germans, and find contentment in their surroundings. Madame DE STAEL cites the testimony of VOLNEY concerning the French who, during the first revolution, formed a colony in our West. "From time to time," he says, "they left their homes and their occupations to go, as they expressed it, *causer a la ville*, and this city, New Orleans, was six hundred leagues away." Madame DE STAEL refers to the fact as evidence of the need of various conversation, common to French people of all ranks, as she affirms. Whatever may be the explanation, it is certain that they are very unwilling to leave their country, and that when they do voluntarily leave it, they generally do so with the purpose and hope of returning. The causes resulting from the war which would be sufficient to induce extensive emigration in other nationalities, may not have that effect in France. The poor people will likely put up with the hardships of their condition, and contrive to work through them at home. Americans who wish for an increase of population perhaps need not deplore the failure of augmentation from that quarter. Those finer manufactures which some have expected to flourish among us in consequence of the prospective immigration of skilled French artificers we can very well dispense with for some years to come. Our rich people will have an opportunity of benefiting the French at home by importing their elegant products. Or, if we prefer domestic articles and choose to encourage home industry, we may obtain the needful mechanical skill from Germany. One of our Teutonic contemporaries, a near neighbor, is rendered mildly indignant at the hopes expressed by some of improved taste and the advancement of refined industry among us as probable results of French immigration. It seems that the Gauls, the "Parisians" in particular, "have bamboozled (*behumbuggten*) their customers most shamelessly" in the matter of the beautiful things which they sold them at such elegant prices. The beautiful things were really made in Berlin, Dresden, Nuremberg, and other cities of Fatherland, were then taken to Paris where they were "ticketed" as of French workmanship and unexceptionable taste, and were then duly sold as such, not only to the shoddy and other mushroom aristocrats of New York, but to long descended German barons and princes, too much enslaved by traditions, or too much besotted by vanity to be capable of exercising an independent judgment even in trifles. Since the isolation of Paris, the German makers of the beautiful Parisian articles have proved their title to the manufacture for many years past, and have little or no difficulty in selling their work without the French label. It is also claimed by our German neighbor, that those industries which were properly and peculiarly Parisian, but which were largely carried on with the aid of German mechanics, have been transferred to Germany in consequence of the war, where they are now firmly established and prospering. The transfer was a natural and inevitable result of the decree by which all Germans were driven from France. In reporting these facts, however, we do not mean to deny or hint a doubt with reference to the the pre-eminence of the French people in matters of taste. In its cultivation they have performed an important part in the education of the Western world, and they may still have something to do in that direction.

THINGS IN FRANCE.

No deliberative body ever met under more embarrassing or awfully solemn circumstances than the French National Assembly which is soon to decide the destinies of France. Elected on the eighth instant the deputies will assemble in Bordeaux on the thirteenth, and then, with only a few days to confer together, they will have to consider the most difficult and important questions ever brought before the representatives of a nation. If, as now seems probable, all the departments send delegates, the Assembly, when organized, will at once become the government of France, in which will be seat whatever authority has heretofore been recognized anywhere in the country. The pressure of the occasion may be expected to prevent, or easily to overcome, the embarrassments which, under less urgent extremities, might have rendered organization difficult. Of necessity, the first and most urgent subject to be settled will be the question of peace or continued war. To foreigners it would appear that this question will be divested of all difficulty by the desperate condition of their affairs. It is, however, not likely that GAMBETTA'S last proclamation expresses the sentiments of himself alone; it, no doubt, declares the wishes and hopes of a great multitude besides, who, comparatively unaffected hitherto by the calamities of the war, may really still believe in the possibility of ultimate success; or who, with the fanaticism of their race and climate, may think that they prefer ruin to submission. It is only a few days since a vast concourse of people, filling the streets of Bordeaux, applauded GAMBETTA'S denunciation of peace and promise of war to the last. If the temper of the people there has not been broken or changed by the surrender of Paris, one of the dangers of the National Assembly may be terrorism on the part of the people among whom it is to hold its sessions. If the fears often expressed by members of the Government of Defense, and the belief often expressed by many prominent Frenchmen, were well founded, a majority of the Assembly are likely to be in favor of peace on any terms that may be offered. The conditions reported as offered by the Germans will probably seem even liberal. But unanimity on the subject, the absence of a considerable minority in favor of a desperate prolongation of the war, would be rather wonderful in an assembly of Frenchmen. Or, if it happens that the supporters of this policy are passed over in the elections, so that deputies are chosen as the friends of peace, the familiar French weapon of terror may be applied by the fanatics to control the action of the Assembly, or to break it up. In the meantime, all who wish well to France will hope for better things. Assuming that the Assembly will be ready to make peace, the establishment, or recognition of a government to guaranty its terms and to rule the country, cannot fail to be the subject of stormy debate, the issue of which it is impossible to foresee. France was not republican at the beginning of the war, and whatever strength the party has gained during the conflict, has been the outgrowth of the hopes of republican military success in driving out the invaders. Even earnest Bonapartists and Orleanists were willing to part with their principles in exchange for such a triumph. The so-called republicans have failed, and nominal republicanism has been saddled with the odium of GAMBETTA'S dictatorship. It was nothing before, and as a consequence of reaction, it is likely to be less than nothing in the affections of the people on the conclusion of peace, of which it must bear a considerable portion of the odium. The supporters of the Orleans family were neither numerous nor influential when the war began, and there is no evidence that the party is more popular now. To its leaders there must have seemed something peculiar by discouraging in the contempt or indifference with which the name has been received when suggested as a means of rallying and concentrating the distracted patriotism and forces of the nation. Prominent journalists as well as a portion of the rabble of Paris have lately charged General TROCHU, a decided adherent of the party, with having conducted the defense of the capital in its interest. He refused, they say, to weaken his army by sorties that on capitulation, he might employ its unimpaired strength and prestige, in establishing his favorite prince upon the throne. However false or absurd the charge, like other lies, it is eagerly believed by those who wish it true. TROCHU failed to deliver Paris, and of course his popularity is gone. The prince may hope for little from him.

Many think that the late Emperor, or at least his dynasty, has the fairest chances of being called once more to reign over France. He cherishes hopes of the kind, partly, no doubt, inspired by the faith which led in early days to his abortive attempts, and partly prompted by the expectation of German aid. Then, the business classes who prospered, the peasants and the small proprietors who enjoyed peace under his rule, would rejoice in its restoration. He would also have the aid of a large proportion of the priests, who would doubtless prefer the son with the Empress as regent. Any thing for them rather than a republic. But while his marshals, generals and other paid retainers in the army would stand by him, it is hard to believe that a majority of the soldiers would be willing to support the family. By the educated classes generally he is likely regarded with a disgust and abhorrence which would seem to make exile or martyrdom preferable to his rule. But in recollections of the past, it would be rash to decide with any confidence what the French people may not be willing to do.

AN OLD INFAMY.

Having contracted for the *Record* (or *Journal*, as it is called; as if aware of the disgust awakened by the old title), the Legislature experiences no little difficulty in determining what shall be done with it. The printing having been ordered, how shall the botched affair be circulated? It is found that the item of postage alone will cost not less than TWELVE THOUSAND DOLLARS for a single session, and even then not one in five hundred of the constituency will receive a copy.

We utterly despair of ever getting at the depths of this infamy, which has the vitality of a cat, but just here the following from the *State Journal*, will shed some light on the dark business:

> The proposition to mulct the State for the *Legislative Journal* was submitted to the House yesterday and voted down almost unanimously. The yeas and nays were called, and Mr. Williams, of Crawford, and Mr. Schwartz, of Berks, were recorded as voting "aye." The former at the time was not in the House and the latter was not in the city. The vote stood 47 to 45; and but for this fraud would have been decided in the negative. Who is to blame? Who will explain.

To publish and circulate this *Record* will cost, we are assured, FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS a session of three months. Two influences combine to keep the huge job alive: the jobbers, in and out of the Legislature, at whose head stands BERGNER, and certain windy gentlemen in the Legislature who are ever dying to see their speeches printed; and as said speeches are seldom of consequence enough to warrant their publication as a private enterprise, and as their publication at the cost of the makers would be an expensive operation, yet simply the only honest thing to do, they join the jobbers in putting the cost upon the public, who will derive scarcely a farthing of benefit. *It should be understood that in addition to this miserable Record the State is all the while paying for the printing of the daily journal of the Legislative proceedings, which is included in the State Printer's contract, and which embraces everything except the speeches.*

To these plain statements, which may serve to give the reader some idea of the probable depths of this infamy, we print the following from the *State Journal:*

> Under the most favorable circumstances the whole system of document printing by the government for gratuitous circulation is a fraud upon the people. No government but ours is guilty of it, and it is time we had a sweeping reform in that system. Of all the documents printed by the United States, and at our own cost, not more than three out of every five copies reach the persons to whom they are addressed, and the edition is so small that, as a means of information the edition utterly fails of its object. In the case of a *Legislative Journal* this item is not a practical man in the State who will refuse to sustain the declaration that it never yet served as a practical item of information for the people. The limited number apportioned to each member gave a copy to about one hundred of every hundred of his constituents, and yet all were taxed for the doubtful accommodation of so limited a number. Months after the adjournment of the Legislature the *Record* has repeatedly been unprinted, its printing and circulation going on, or its unfolded sheets left to gnaw in the basement of the Capitol.
>
> The *State Journal* is now the very best record of legislative proceedings published in Harrisburg. Every day's proceedings of both Houses of the Legislature are given promptly in the *Journal* of the next. Our reporters contain all the people want to know of the doings of the law makers. We do not ask the Legislature to pay us for this work. It is our own enterprise, pursued at our individual risk. If legislators are anxious to give their constituents information of their proceedings, let such as these leave the names of the people there desire to inform, and we will have the *Journal* regularly mailed every morning to every individual indicated. By this means the Legislature would get its information promptly, and postage will be saved to the Treasury, an item which frequently equaled the printing bill of the *Legislative Record*. We make this offer to legislators who are so zealously solicitous to give their constituents information. If they are honest in their purpose they will accept our proposition, but if they only seek a fat contract for favorites they will adhere to the scheme of reviving the *Legislative Record*. The *State Journal* is a record which answers all purposes. It is no leech on the Treasury. It affords no sinecures to drones in the folding and pasting rooms of the cantol, and it is a prompt medium of information. We can furnish the Legislature every morning with 10,000 copies of the *Journal* for what it would cost to print 2,000 copies of a *Legislative Record*, and save in addition what it would require to frank and put through the mails that number. We submit to our proposition for the examination of the people as well as the consideration of legislators. To publish, fold, and circulate the proposed *Legislative Record* will cost the State at least $60,000. The expenditure will be utterly useless. The newspapers in all parts of the State will clip from the *Journal* all that is of interest to their respective readers and give it the people long before the slow official *Record* reaches them. Let us have practical economy.

GENERAL SCHENCK'S detention is again announced, and this time with the explanation that it is in accordance with an understanding between the Governments of the two countries. It is a happy circumstance that the two nations can see their interests through the same medium, and that there is so excellent a prospect for a settlement of differences which if treated in any other spirit might endanger the continuance of friendly relations.

HAVING failed of inducing immigration from other parts of Europe, Virginia begins to speculate upon securing the lion's share of the Frenchmen, that some people expect will soon be deserting their native land. The Old Dominion may find her plans fail in this, as in so many other things of late years. Not that the Gauls will love Virginia less, but France more and so stay at home.

The business of packing Texas meat in Texas has been entered into extensively, and the enterprise of canning meat, in Australian fashion, has been inaugurated successfully. One Galveston house has recently shipped ten tons to Hamburg.

THAT PROTEST.

Yesterday we published, in our special correspondence from Harrisburg, the protest of some fifty members of the Allegheny county bar, "against the passage of the bill relative to the salaries of Allegheny county officers." The reasons upon which the protest is based, are briefly stated: that "the bill is entirely impracticable, and in many cases will amount to a denial of justice, and certainly should not apply to the present incumbents." That this protest is intended, not to secure such amendments or alterations to Mr. WHITE'S bill as will render it acceptable to the members of the bar, but to defeat any measure which shall redeem the pledges made by the regular Republican convention and their candidates, to the people, is quite evident from the protest itself. The names are those of respectable and influential members of the bar, but they are a mere fraction of the profession, numbering just fifty-four. The purpose, however, is to militate against the bill, and create the impression that "the bar" is wholly opposed to it. One of the papers which share in the public printing, and of course opposed to the reduction of fees, yesterday declared that "a remonstrance, signed by the entire bar," against WHITE'S bill, had been sent to Harrisburg, and that, of course, it would receive that consideration to which the voice of the *entire bar* was entitled. With nobody to speak for the bill on behalf of the two hundred members of the bar who did not protest, it is not difficult for those opposed to reduction of salaries to claim that "the whole bar cries out in opposition to the measure." The fact is, a very small minority of the bar, as yet, has spoken, and we desire to ask these gentlemen whether they are in favor of any bill which shall reduce salaries and save the taxpayers?

In the first place, they declare the bill impracticable—by which, we presume, they mean impossible to execute if passed. If this be their opinion, and they favor a redemption of the pledges which they themselves helped to make, why did they not get together and frame a bill, or a section, which would overcome the difficulties? Is there not legal tact enough among them to make the bill feasible? There is scarcely a lawyer of the fifty who would care to admit that he could not, in one hour's time, frame a section which would remedy the defect complained of. If they are solicitous that the party should redeem its pledges, why do they not render some assistance in that direction, instead of throwing all their influence the other way?

The second objection urged is that in many cases the bill would amount to a "denial of justice." This has reference, we infer, to the requirement that costs of suits shall be paid in advance. The suggestions made under the first head will apply here. All that is necessary is a simple amendment to meet the point, such as any good lawyer—like MARSHALL, GEYER, SHIRAS, WATSON, WOODS, JONES, VEACH, FETTERMAN, and others, protesting—could draw, in the light of his experience as a practitioner. We would not have the humblest citizen denied *justice*. There are other qualities, precisely synonymous with justice, which we would not have entirely overlooked. There are such qualities as honesty and integrity—strict conformity to right and obligation—extending even to pledges made between the leaders of a party and its candidates for office, and the people who were asked to place them in power. None understand the nature of obligations better than those who have been trained in the school of the law, and whose special business it is to apply the principles of common honesty against those who are disposed to shirk their obligations.

The third point embodied in the protest is, that the proposed act "certainly should not apply to the present incumbents." We cannot see any force in this objection, since the bill has been so amended as to embrace in its operations, so far as emoluments are concerned, those only who *voluntarily pledged themselves*, not only to submit to whatever change might be made, but to endeavor to carry out, in letter and spirit, the resolutions of the Convention, favoring a change. Will any of the legal gentlemen joining in the protest attempt to show wherein it would be unjust to hold the recently elected officers to their pledges?

Now, this whole question must be as plain to the members of the bar as other people. The Republican party, through its regular convention, promised certain reforms, among them the reduction of the salaries of county officers, and the abolition of the fees. The candidates—both legislative and county—solemnly pledged themselves, by written instruments, to carry out this promise of the party in good faith. A bill has been prepared, satisfactory in its scope and purpose, but alleged to be defective in some of its details; and instead of going to work and making honest endeavors to perfect whatever is defective, the most determined and persistent efforts are making to defeat it altogether! Do the members of the bar of Allegheny county desire to place themselves in the position of trifling with the obligation now existing between our members of the Legislature and the people who placed them in power?

HON. JOHN BIGELOW, late Minister to France, writes from Berlin to Senator CONKLING making some timely suggestions about the observance of the American Centennary, 1876. He says, and wisely too, that if the nation is to celebrate this great anniversary as it should be, it is time to begin preparations. In respect to the question whether the ceremonies should be under the auspices of and controlled by Government or a private organization, he thinks that the President should be empowered to appoint a commission to obtain public sentiment upon the question as well as to receive suggestions from every quarter about the celebration, this commission to report in season to guide the President in laying the matter before Congress in his next annual message, so that that body may act advisedly. Mr. BIGELOW thinks some important things must be done before the United States can celebrate in 1876, among these are: The completion of the Washington Monument, of the Capitol buildings, and as far as possible of all the projected railway, telegraphic, and other public works throughout the country; the restoration of the gold standard of values, the reduction of the national debt so that our securities shall command as high prices as those of any country; the completion of the geological, mineralogical, and botanical surveys of those States which yet lack them; and the taking of Federal census, or one by the States, in time for the anniversary. In regard to the celebration itself, he thinks that among the things that would suit the occasion would be the following: The coining at the mint of at least one complete set of gold or silver current coins, with new devices commemorative of the day for every citizen of the United States able and willing to pay for it; the writing by native poets of appropriate verses; the contribution from every art of a fit memorial of the degree of excellence to which it shall have attained, and with which it will begin the succeeding century; the bringing to the knowledge of foreign people of American achievements within the century; the preparation by competent persons of a series of histories by which to measure the progress and product of civilization in the United States in politics, religion, charities, all the professions, all the arts, sciences, and manufactures, commerce, with histories of every department of the government and the State governments, as well as of the municipal, State, and Federal systems of political representation, and the changes which they may have respectively undergone, indeed of every thing that is embraced in the complexed life of our civilization; the establishment of a national museum, to be perpetually associated, both by name and purpose, with this anniversary, and the repository of such works of art commemorative of the event as proved worthy of its hospitality, and specimens of everything printed in the United States during the years 1775 and 1876, and of all memorials of that day in each of the intervening years that needed and deserved such a shelter. Besides all this, Mr. BIGELOW says it is to be hoped and presumed that by 1876 no portion of the continent of America will be in colonial dependence upon any foreign Power, but that we shall constitute one compact family of independent States under such form of government as shall best suit the people living under them, and all in friendly alliance with the United States. Therefore he thinks that there could be no opportunity for holding an American Congress to settle international questions.

A bill has passed both branches of the Ohio Legislature, and become a law, to provide for the appointment of guardians for habitual drunkards.

All eyes just now, whether in sympathy or in mere curiosity, are directed toward and fixed upon France in its agony of defeat and humiliation. Whatever facts, statements or speculations are adapted to throw light upon the fearful situation, or upon the spirit in which it is accepted by the people, are eagerly read. At length the French nation is to have an opportunity of expressing its real opinions concerning peace and war, and of declaring its preference in the matter of its government, through properly chosen representatives. In the meantime, while these subjects remain in the region of conjecture, considerable interest attaches to the utterances of individual Frenchmen, whose prominence or position warrants us in regarding their words as conveying the thoughts and feelings of many. The *Courrier des Etats-Unis*, the most widely circulated and most influential Franco-American newspaper, doubtless expresses sentiments very prevalent among its readers, when, admitting the necessity of peace now as the consequence of exhaustion, it denies the possibility of its permanence. The writer indignantly asks—"Who dares pretend that France will resign herself to the eternal yoke?" There will be a truce, he says, but there will be no durable peace for the generations now coming up. He compares his country, dismembered, to those mutilated persons who suffer everlastingly from the amputated limb. So much the worse for Europe, he declares, if it trembles with our convulsions. What to us are the agitations and commotions which disturb others? we have no longer bowels or heart for any but ourselves. The writer has evidently persuaded himself that the present calamities have been brought upon France, in part at least, by its chivalry, disinterestedness, generosity and sacrifices in the cause of human liberty. France at last repents of these follies; henceforth she will leave the rest of the world to take care of themselves, while she looks more carefully after her own interests. Rendered egotistic by ingratitude, she will in future think only of her scattered members, her children torn from her, of "the flesh of her flesh violently sundered from her palpitating body." "Let no one," he cries, "trust in this peace which is about to ensue. Whatever rulers are to come, Kings, or people, Emperors or tribunes, they will be honored, acclaimed by France only on condition that they espouse her hatred and her vengeance. Woe be to him who dreams of founding his power on our ruins." It is likely, he thinks, that the National Assembly will establish a Republic. If so, the old device must be changed, and instead of Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, its flag must be inscribed with the words, "The Republic, it is War." In reading such language some allowance ought to be made for the facts that it is used in this country, not in France, and that it is used by a man who has only heard of, who has not experienced the horrors of the war. We may, however, with some reason fear that it conveys not inaccurately the feelings with which a majority of the writer's compatriots will accept what seems to them an ignominous peace. The loss of territory will be generally regarded as the most humiliating of the terms of settlement. Outside of France very many who have throughout the struggle given their sympathies to the Germans, have never ceased to regard the annexation of Alsace and Lorraine as a measure cruel and impolitic; cruel that is, to the people of those provinces and certain to produce animosities among them which Germany cannot well afford to incur. This is only one of the reasons which make the act impolitic. Another reason may be found in its effect upon the French people, as indicated above, and in the foreign sympathy by which French resentment will long be cherished. It may, however, be doubted whether the most magnanimous and generous proceedings on the part of the Germans, after the battle of Sedan, would have commanded recognition among their antagonists. Had the Germans after that catastrophe proposed peace without claim of territory, doubtless the Government of Defense would have been willing to accept even on hard terms. But there is good reason to believe that it would have been a hollow peace of short duration. The French people would not have long maintained pacific relations with a neighbor who had annihilated their armies in so short a time. Permanent peace would have been impossible with such memories at its foundation. Many would have spoken of peace then as many speak of it now. Perhaps the writer in the *Courrier* does not. Thereforem they have referred the matter to the Judiciary Committee. Some profess to believe that this action practically disposes of the matter for this Congress, although the river people hopefully think they will get a report from the Judiciary Committee in about two weeks. Mr. RICHARD SMITH has returned to Cincinnati quite despondent and intimating that the Pennsylvania Railroad influence is too strong for the river interest to get any immediate action from Congress. But Hon. BENJAMIN EGGLESTON, who has also returned to Cincinnati, is of opinion that few of the members of Congress will sustain the Newport Bridge Company, and says both Committees on Commerce are favorable to the river interest. Colonel THOMAS A. SCOTT, who is at Washington for the railroad in this matter, expresses great confidence, and says that even all the strong influences and interests he has to fight can not prevail against him; his company will go on and finish the bridge, and if the river interests want redress, they must go to the Court. From these views of the situation it must appear that the river men cannot yet afford to relax any of their vigilance.

A DISPATCH represents that the ROTHSCHILDS pay or are ready to pay the German contribution levied on Paris. We have once or twice briefly called attention to the mental attitude of the American Israelites towards the French-German conflict. The subject is rather interesting as it affords illustration of Hebrew character and Hebrew fidelity to the cause of their race. Readers of history are familiar with facts in many centuries and different countries proving how keenly they appreciate service and how faithfully they remember not only persons in private life, but kings and governments who show them favor or respect their rights as a peculiar people. In comparatively recent times, and in American history, in the life of an American President, JEFFERSON, an exemplification of this remark will occur to a few of our readers. While some of the German Israelites have warmly espoused the German side of the great quarrel, it has, we believe, been well understood all along that a majority of them either decidedly sympathize with the French, or else feel or affect indifference concerning the issues of the warfare. In a late Jewish publication we have given an explanation of their French sympathies. The writer says it is attested by history that whenever an idea of emancipation has made way in Europe, France has taken the initiative. France has always been and is to-day, the advance guard of liberty. With its population of forty millions of Catholics, it has always respected and maintained the rights of its one hundred thousand Israelitish citizens. The writer claims, without fear of contradiction, that the religious emancipation of the Jews in Germany is of French origin. In 1848, he says, we find two of our worthy co-religionists, CREMIEUX, the lawyer, and GOUDCHAUX, the financier, forming a part of the provisional Government of France. Not very remote from the same time, a German Parliament was convoked at Frankfort, containing as members the great men reactionary and liberal of Germany. In this assembly the most perfect harmony prevailed in the disenssions so long as they did not touch the question of the emancipation of the Jews. This subject was the stumbling block over which they fell into discord. They could not agree upon the proposition and it was rejected. Though since that time the position of the Jew in Germany has been much improved, the old fraternity of France towards the race is remembered by many of them with a gratitude which somewhat darkens the claims of Fatherland.

DR. BARKER'S lectures, of which two have been delivered, are mentioned with unanimous praise. So general is the interest excited by them, that it is not too soon to speak of the course as a brilliant success. We hear the fact referred to as creditable to the intellectual character of the people of Pittsburgh. It is, however, a sort of credit which the people of Pittsburgh could long ago claim as their due; as we may say that they have always taken interest in scientific lectures by competent professors. Thus from the memoirs of the late Professor BENJAMIN SILLIMAN we learn that nearly thirty years ago, he was greatly gratified by the enthusiasm with which his lectures on geology and mineralogy were received in this city, and on two former occasions, at distant intervals, DR. BARKER lectured here to crowded houses. Such facts are in themselves a sufficient answer to those who assign the indifference of the people to solid instruction as a reason or an apology for employing mountebanks, or mere sentimental declaimers in the character of lecturers. Accustomed to lecture before young men who really wish to understand the subject treated, Dr. BARKER is always clear in statement and always happy in his experimental illustrations. Listening to his quiet and luminous expositions of scientific truth, his vast audience seem "to forget all time." Let our readers take notice that the next lecture of the course will be delivered on next Tuesday evening, when the wonderful revelations of the spectroscope will be illustrated.

Was there ever a more marked instance of Satan rebuking sin than when HOFFMAN, Governor of New York, by grace of Tammany, addresses a message to "Mr. TWEED'S Legislature," innocently remarking that bribery has been heard of at elections and suggesting that it should be punished! Mr. HOFFMAN and his party are opposed to the plan of regulation which has accomplished something in the way of correcting abuses of the elective franchise. They want to have the glory of getting up their own panacea for the ills they have brought upon the ballot. Governor HOFFMAN, speaking of the State which elected him says money, not merit, secures nominations and controls results." He refrains from telling the people how, in his city, Tammany uses the roughs to control some of the elections, without paying them money, but only promising immunity from punishment under indictments already found, with the threat of letting the law take its course if they "go back on" the party. This is a potent agency for manipulating votes in New York city, and Governor HOFFMAN must mean it even more than bribery with money when he says: "It is far more important to punish these men who tempt and corrupt than him who, being tempted, yields and falls." But the trouble is that those who "tempt and corrupt" are the Tammany ring, that elected HOFFMAN and HALL and the puppets in the Legislature at Albany.

ON retiring from the office of Special Commissioner of Revenue, D. A. WELLS, Esq., was appointed by Governor HOFFMAN to consider the subject of taxation in that State and report on the best method of securing an equal and just method of imposing the burthen. His report, which is about to be made to the Legislature, will have a special interest in many if not all the other States. In our own much has been written and no inconsiderable effort made with the view to obtaining a uniform system, as well as something like complete knowledge of the wealth of the State. It must be conceded that our present system is grossly defective, and in many respects unjust in its workings, as well as entirely inadequate to an ascertainment of the State's resources. In these respects New York is similarly situated, and that State has undertaken the work of correction in a manner that has a special value to ourselves. Mr. WELLS, doubtless, has special qualifications for the task in which he has been engaged for more than a year, and the result of his labors will be awaited with particular interest here as well as in New York.

GEN. NEGLEY is on the Railroad side of the Bridge question. First, he is for the Bridge; second, if the Bridge cannot be saved, he is for allowing the claim of a million of dollars which the company will put in—a claim which the Board of Engineers say less than a quarter of that sum ought to satisfy. Pittsburgh has a glorious representative in Congress. But we do congratulate ourselves that we had no part in his election. Those to whom he belongs should make much of him, and be quick about it, too, for he is not going to last long.

One bit of experience outweighs any amount of theory, and those who have been asserting that steamships are not built in America because they are costly and inefficient, find themselves put down by a comparison of a year's achievements of an American and a German steamer. The *Isaac Bell*, of the Old Dominion Line, was built in Brooklyn, and JOHN ROACH & SON, of New York, built her engine. During the past year she has made 52 round trips, of 4,500 miles, received and delivered 101 cargoes, and made 416 landings, with the regularity of a ferry boat. On the other hand, in the year, the *Hansa*, of the Hamburg line, made six trips varying in time from one to six days over a route of 4,300 miles. This vessel is nominally of 2,600 tons, yet she will carry only 1,500 bales of cotton, or 1,000 tons cargo, consuming 80 tons of coal per diem, and running at the rate of 12 miles per hour, the *Bell* and her iron consort, although nominally of but 1,600 tons measurement, will each carry more than twice that amount of cargo, consuming 25 tons of coal per diem, and steaming at the rate of 14 miles per hour, and draw from six to eight feet less water.

The *Bell* was out every week in the year, and encountered her full share of as heavy weather as any steamer in mid-ocean, yet when put in dry-dock, all the repairs she needed was a new coat of paint on her hull and about $10 upon her engines. The *Hansa's* repairs cost $19,000 in gold. Those of the *America*, of the Hamburg line, cost $23,000 in gold. The *Hermann's* repairs cost $26,000 in gold. None of the newest ships of this line have cost less than $10,000 annually, and the average expense has been over $20,000 in gold.

The iron consort of the *Bell* was built on the Delaware in five months; she was as cheap, too, considering tonnage, as she could have been constructed on the Clyde; but when her capacity is considered, she cost twenty-five per cent. less. The actual cost of the vessel was $305,000 currency. Until these statements are proven to be incorrect, they must stand as sufficient to show that it is entirely possible for America to compete, under the present tariff, with rival nations in shipbuilding and in commerce, if the citizens of the United States will but engage in the enterprise. The American Steamship Company of Philadelphia will soon furnish further proofs of this fact.

HOWEVER painful it may be to read of the moral prostration of the prominent French leaders under the calamities of their country, there may be comfort in the fact. Better the tears of FAVRE, or the sighs of TROCHU than the bombast of GAMBETTA. The former rather than the latter will in spire respect and sympathy in the outside world. Both FAVRE and TROCHU are men whose well known principles and character, as shown by their careers, forbid the suggestion of suicide. No doubt each of them will acquit himself like a man and in a manner accordant with his past. In respect to some of the other conspicuous leaders of the war we need hardly look for so much. Several suicides are already reported, and considering the commonness of that refuge in France, the impulsive character of the people, and the respect with which a "Roman death" is apt to be regarded by Frenchmen of a certain stamp, it will not be surprising if we hear of more cases of the kind. It is, by the way, interesting to note the contrast between the reported agitation of TROCHU under pressure national calamity and the stolid quietude of LOUIS NAPOLEON after Sedan. To be sure the latter pretended that he had tried to die at the head of his army and we read that he was seen to wipe his eye with a glove as if there had been a tear there. But for the desire of death we have only his imperial word, which may well go for nothing, and we may with reason suspect that the glove was designed to hide the absence of moisture. In fact, the old impostor has grown into robust health and fatness under the woes of France, and his manifest content is too stolid to pass even for stoicism.

THE Newport Bridge question remains undecided. The House Committee on Commerce has postponed its decision until to-morrow, and there need be no surprise if there is further postponement. Of the seven members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, but two are lawyers, and they differ upon the legal points involved. Mr. CONKLING holds the opinion that if Congress ordered any alteration in the construction of the bridge, it would have to be at the expense of the government. Mr. VICKERS does not. Therefore they have referred the matter to the Judiciary Committee. Some profess to believe that this action practically disposes of the matter for this Congress, although the river people hopefully think they will get a report from the Judiciary Committee in about two weeks. Mr. RICHARD SMITH has returned to Cincinnati quite despondent and intimating that the Pennsylvania Railroad influence is too strong for the river interest to get any immediate action from Congress. But Hon. BENJAMIN EGGLESTON, who has also returned to Cincinnati, is of opinion that few of the members of Congress will sustain the Newport Bridge Company, and says both Committees on Commerce are favorable to the river interest. Colonel THOMAS A. SCOTT, who is at Washington for the railroad in this matter, expresses great confidence, and says that even all the strong influences and interests he has to fight can not prevail against him; his company will go on and finish the bridge, and if the river interests want redress, they must go to the Court. From these views of the situation it must appear that the river men cannot yet afford to relax any of their vigilance.

THE perfect agreement between the Harrisburg papers on the unnecessary cost of the State Printing, the corrupting influences employed to obtain the contract, and the dishonest practices resorted to in order to swell the expense, is quite refreshing. Nearly all of them, at one time or another, have dipped into it, and they are presumed to speak intelligently on the subject. The reason for this state of things is they have fallen out, and are in a frame of mind to tell the truth. The "round robbin" serves no longer to suppress the truth to the cost of the State. All, and even more than we have ever asserted concerning this monstrous swindle, is now admitted. The voices which in former times were loud and indignant in denunciation of the COMMERCIAL are raised in asserting and proving more than we ever uttered. The thieves have fallen out simply, and good luck is it for the State.

THE dinner given to General PLEASANTON in New York as Commissioner of Internal Revenue, has a special significance. It was intended as a marked approval of that officer's efforts to procure the repeal of the Income tax, and an expression of satisfaction in view of his high determination to do his duty in the face of strong opposition. With these expressions of approbation the whole country sympathizes. What it wants, all the administration needs to insure for itself enthusiastic applause from every quarter, is a thorough policy for the reduction of taxes, sweeping reforms in the civil service, and an intelligent and courageous looking beyond small and temporary questions which are unworthy of the attention they demand. The occasion was full of instruction to those who can understand it. Many of the most prominent Republicans of New York were present.

THE New York *Herald* says that "JOHN W. FORNEY is mentioned as the probable new Postmaster General." This may be true, but it remains to be added that the *Herald* is about the only one to mention Mr. FORNEY in this connection. It is said that the President is looking out for a Pennsylvanian who will unite the party and confer strength on the administration. It might just as reasonably be held that the appointment of FENTON or CONKLING to a Cabinet office would unite the party in New York, an assumption which no man in his senses would be guilty of. Col. FORNEY'S appointment would only aggravate what is regarded as an unhappy state of things now. In our judgment the party in Pennsylvania would be stronger if let alone than the doctoring which the *Herald* proposes, and we entertain no fears that the President will accept its advice in this particular.

THE telegraphic rumors from Washington about the reorganization of the Cabinet at an early day, at the very least reflect what has been proposed to Gen. GRANT as a desirable measure of policy and strength at the present time. Names are not much proposed though the reorganization is quite widely and readily assented to. Could the almost if not quite impossible Pennsylvanian who would please every one be found, Pennsylvania would be represented in the Cabinet at an early day. Indeed such an one is understood to be much in request just now; and while he may yet be found, the extent of our information is that the task of finding him is thought to be rather difficult. With or without him a partial if not complete reorganization of the Cabinet not long after the adjournment of Congress, if not before, is a very probable event.

We do not credit the rumor that General BUTLER is going into the Cabinet, notwithstanding the General and the President are fast friends now, and have been for some time. General BUTLER is a Presidential candidate, not yet much advanced, it is true, nevertheless a candidate, with active friends well distributed in different parts of the Union, judiciously at work, some of whom expect to turn up as delegates in the National Convention. With all his drawbacks he has the advantage of being a positive character, and had he the good qualities of such a man as WILSON, of Iowa, could defy all competitors. We doubt first whether the President's known peace policy will permit him for a moment to seriously entertain the appointing of BUTLER, and second, we doubt whether BUTLER desires to take such a position.

THE Missouri *Republican* is inclined to doubt the announcement of the narrowing of the gauge of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, and says the Erie interest could not afford it. That is undoubtedly correct, but we fancy they cannot help themselves even to prevent the present movement, to say nothing of their inability to do as the *Republican* suggests, viz: "In mere self-defense be compelled to locate a new line from the terminus of or some point on the Atlantic and Great Western Road to St. Louis." That JAY GOULD and JIM FISK have permitted this work to begin, without a visible effort to interfere, even at the extent of retaining what they have, by the addition of a third rail, instead of change of gauge, is a virtual confession that they have no more money to spend in the contest for railroad supremacy in the West.

IT is not improbable that a disagreement between the Senate and House of Representatives on Senator SCOTT'S bill repealing the Income Tax it may fall between the two Houses of Congress. The question in the hands of Committees of Conference, now at variance, is not so much on the direct question of repeal as the right of the Senate to initiate the measure—nar